

Public Consultation on DCAL Community Festival Fund

Community Festivals Fund - Revised Policy and Guidance Framework

A Public Consultation

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) is seeking views on its draft revised [Community Festivals Fund Policy and Guidance Framework](#).

The Community Festivals Fund (CFF) has been in existence (in various forms) since 2006. The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) has overall responsibility for the CFF while responsibility for making awards to individual festivals rests with individual councils.

In 2012, an evaluation considering various aspects of the Fund including the pattern of funding over time, how funding has been distributed, effectiveness and impact, was undertaken by DCAL's Economic Services Unit. Organisations who have applied for CFF funding were also consulted to inform the evaluation.

As a result of this evaluation, DCAL has drafted a revised Community Festivals Fund Policy and Guidance Framework which, once agreed and finalised, will replace the existing framework which has been in operation since 2007.

We would welcome your comments on any aspects of the draft revised Framework and are using this online survey to help you provide your views.

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Findings of the Evaluation

The 2012 evaluation of the CFF acknowledged the positive outcomes of the Fund but also highlighted shortcomings. Included in the evaluation's recommendations is that DCAL should:

- have a clearer, defined ambition and purpose for the CFF;
- not fund large tourism driven festivals;
- revise the criteria and policy framework; and
- set more specific objectives for CFF.

It was also recommended that Councils should dedicate more resources to training and support, that the application process should be simplified and standardised, and that more applications from deprived areas should be encouraged.

The evaluation found that the support provided by CFF is valued. Festival organisers and district councils reported on various ways in which local communities have benefited, and the number of festivals benefiting has grown significantly, from 42 each year in 2006/07 and 2007/08 under the administration of the Northern Ireland Events Company, to an average of 376 per year in 2008-11. The amount of money allocated to festivals has also grown significantly, from an average of just under £400k to an average of over £900k, largely due to match funding from local councils.

Without the CFF, many festivals would not take place or would be on a smaller scale. The evaluation concluded that for festivals to continue on the same scale, public subsidy is necessary.

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Consultation Responses and Freedom of Information

The Department will usually publish a summary of responses following the completion of the consultation process. If you would prefer your response to be treated as confidential, please let us know, stating your reasons clearly. Any automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will be taken to apply only to information in your response for which confidentiality has been specifically requested.

If we are asked to disclose responses under freedom of information legislation, we will take any requests for confidentiality into account. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

We will handle appropriately any personal data you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office or see website [\(click here\)](#)

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Survey completion instructions

This online survey is being used to collect your views on this public consultation. You record your answers by clicking your choice from a row or column and adding your comments in the box provided.

You navigate through the survey by clicking the "Next" or "Prev" buttons at the bottom of each page and clicking the "Done" button when completed. Maximising the survey window is recommended to reduce scrolling up and down the screen.

If you have not fully completed the survey and wish to resume at a later date, click the "Next" button and then the "Exit this survey" button at the top right hand corner of the page. Your previous responses will be saved when you return to the survey.

The closing date for responses is 18th June 2015.

If you would prefer to respond by completing a paper copy of this survey you can [e-mail me](#) or write to me at the address below.

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DCAL Arts Branch
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 02890515035
Text phone: 02890527668

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Objectives of the Community Festivals Fund

Objectives of the Community Festivals Fund as included in the draft revised framework

- a) to support the community and voluntary sector in promoting equality and target poverty and social exclusion;
- b) to enable communities to celebrate their cultural identity;
- c) to enhance community relations;
- d) to enable partnership working between the community and voluntary sector and local Councils; and
- e) to improve the capacity of community festivals by providing support and training in addition to funding towards the cost of events.

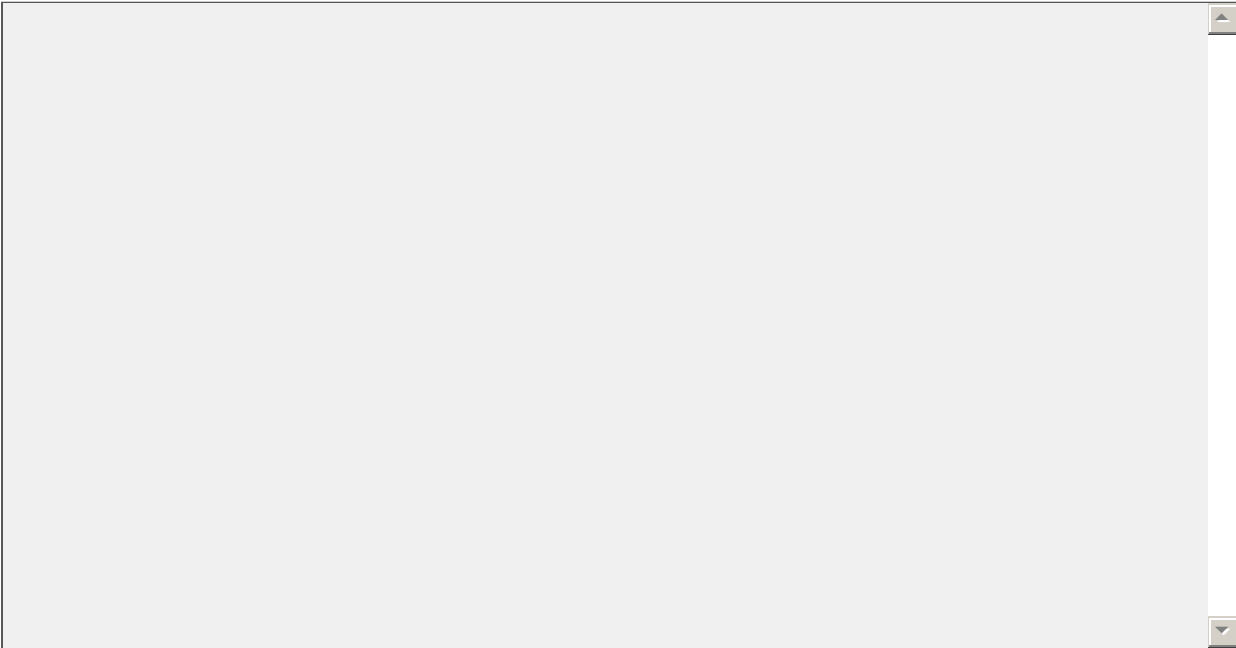
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Agreement with objectives of the Community Festivals Fund

1. Do you agree with the objectives of the Community Festivals Fund as outlined in the draft revised framework?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide your views

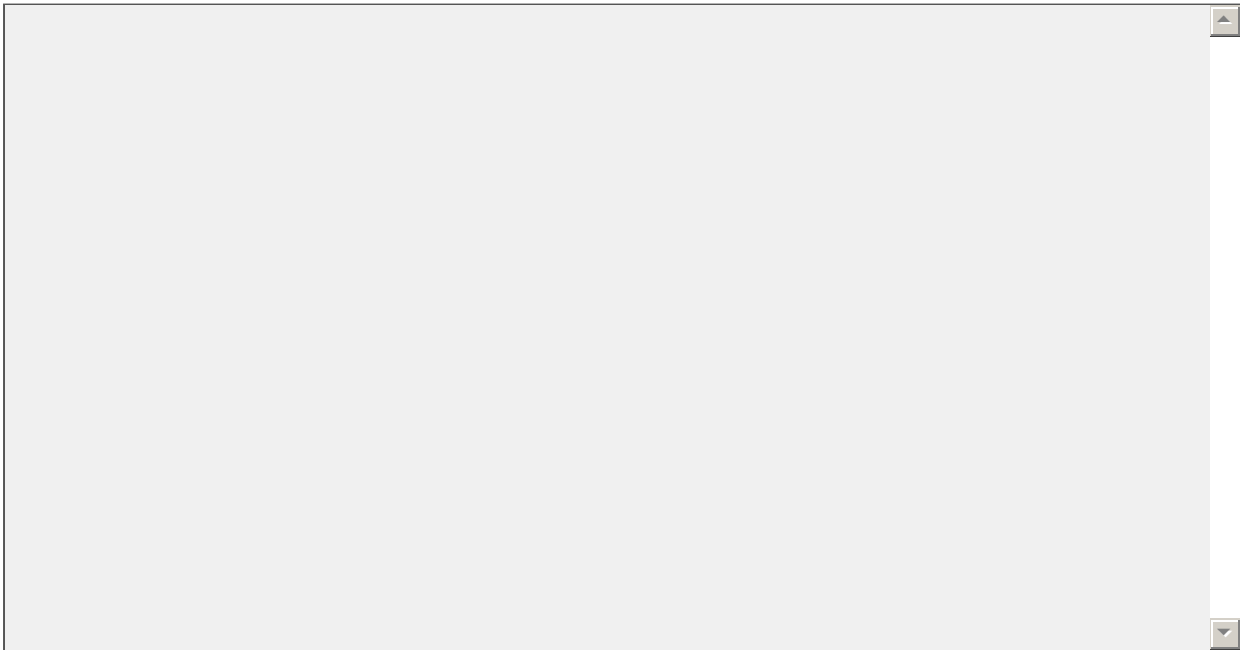


2. Do you have any alternative suggestions?

- Yes No

Alternative suggestions for objectives

3. Please provide your suggestions.



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Definition of a Community Festival

Definition of a Community Festival as included in the draft revised framework

A community festival is a series of events (or a single event with several elements) with a common theme and delivered within a defined time period. It is developed from within a community and should celebrate and positively promote what the community represents.

Community festivals are about participation, involvement, and the creation of a sense of identity and are important in contributing to the social well being of a community.

They must be initiated and led by, or in partnership with a community organisation. The community must play a strong part in the development and delivery of the festival and have ownership of it.

For the purposes of the Community Festivals Fund the following will apply:

- all Festivals must be culture based, where culture is defined as ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or social grouping;
- all festivals must demonstrate their commitment to promoting social cohesion, social inclusion, equality of opportunity and good community relations.

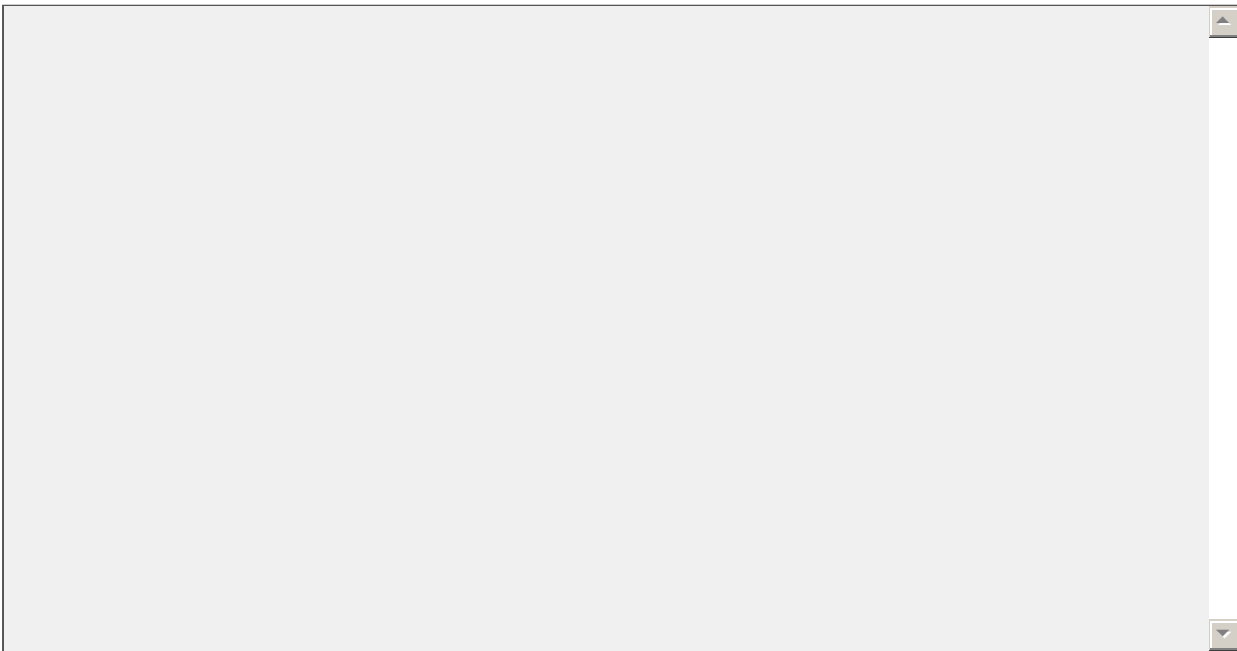
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Agreement with definition of Community Festival

4. Do you agree with the definition of a Community Festival as provided in the draft revised framework?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide your views

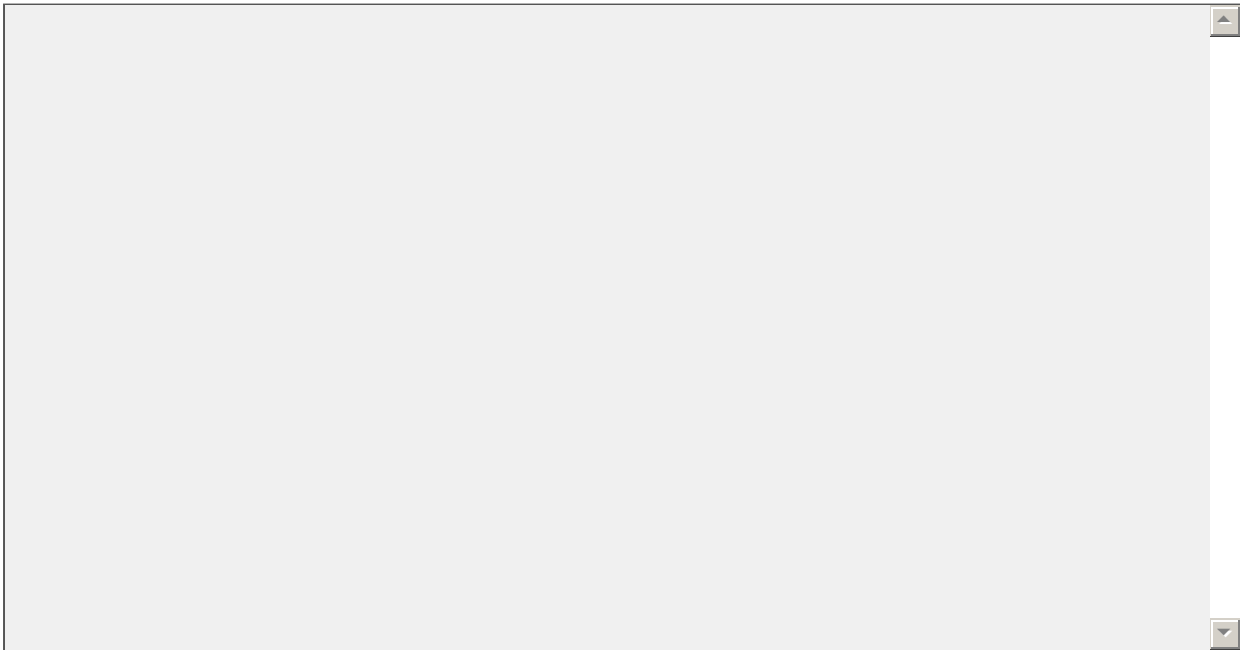


5. Do you have any alternative suggestions?

- Yes No

Alternative suggestions for definition

6. Please provide your suggestions.



Targets of the Community Festivals Fund

Targets of the Community Festival Fund as outlined in the draft revised framework

In order to be considered successful, the Community Festivals Fund will have to meet the three targets listed a) to c) in the draft revised framework. Councils will be expected to contribute towards the achievement of those targets and to provide the necessary information to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure for measurement.

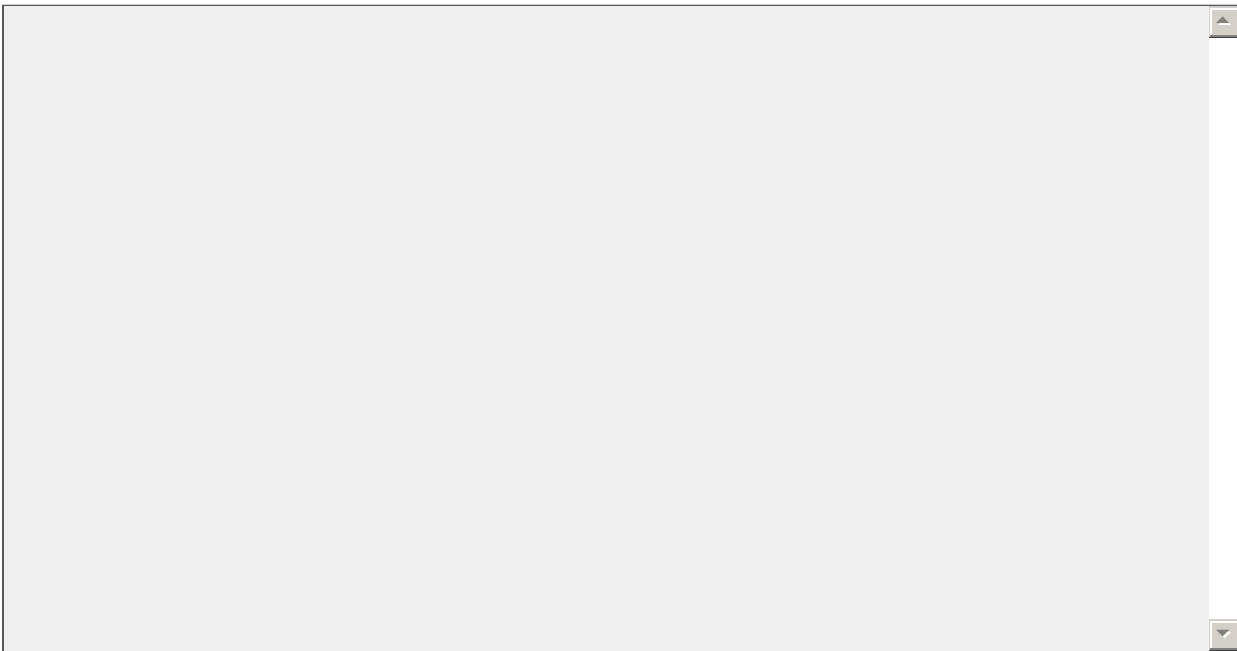
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Agreement with the targets for the Community Festivals Fund

7. Do you agree with the targets for the Community Festival Fund as outlined in the draft revised framework?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide your views

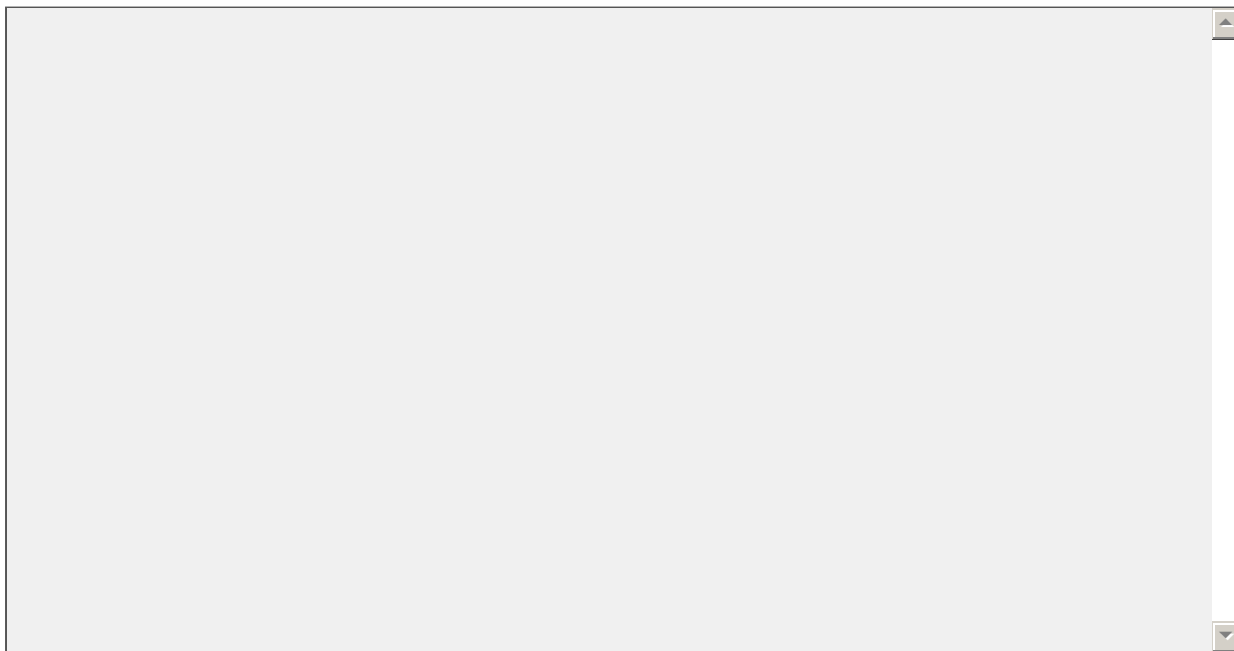


8. Do you have any alternative suggestions?

- Yes No

Alternative suggestions for targets

9. Please provide your suggestions.



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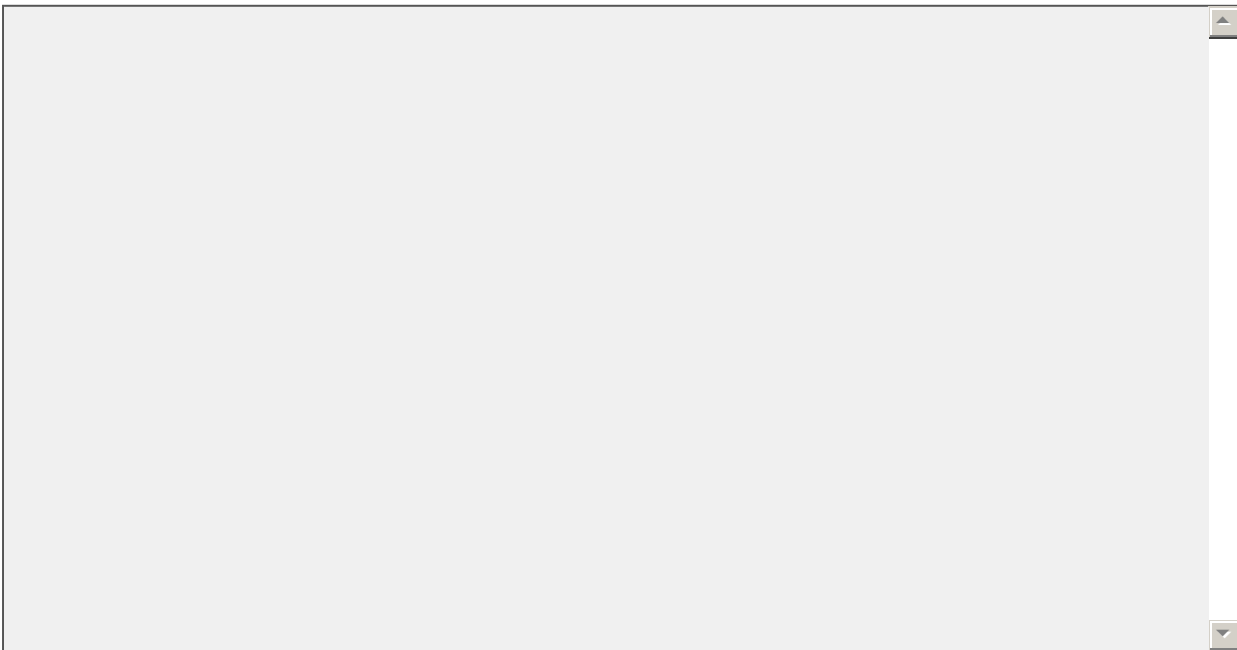
General Principles which apply to the Community Festivals Fund

General Principles which apply to the Community Festivals Fund are included in the draft revised framework.

10. Do you agree with the principles which apply to the Community Festivals Fund as outlined in the draft revised framework?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide your views

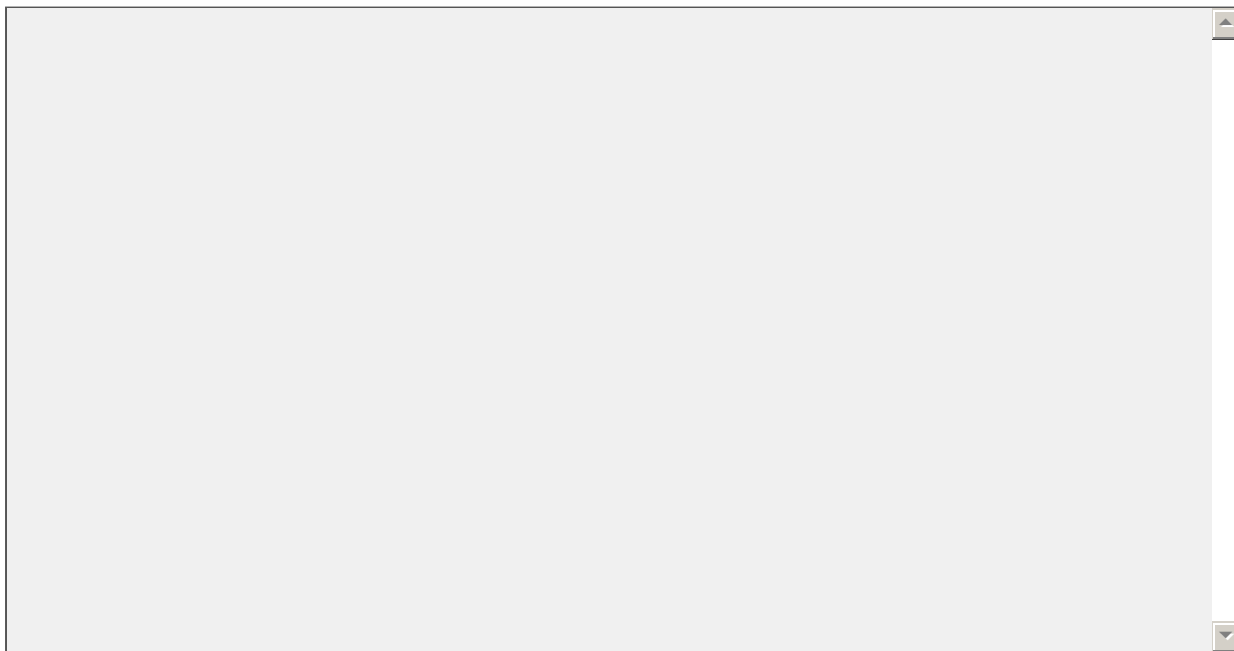


11. Do you have any alternative suggestions?

- Yes No

Alternative suggestions for principles

12. Please provide your suggestions.

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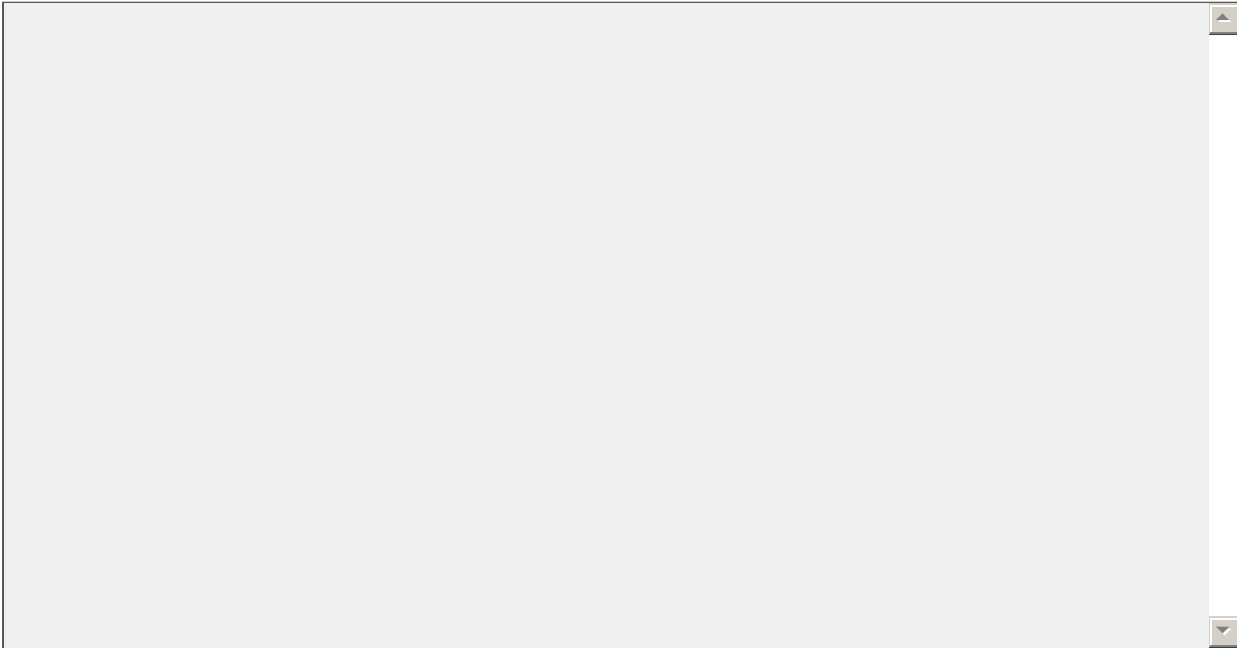
Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria are included in the draft revised framework.

13. Do you agree with the Assessment Criteria outlined in the draft revised framework?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide your views

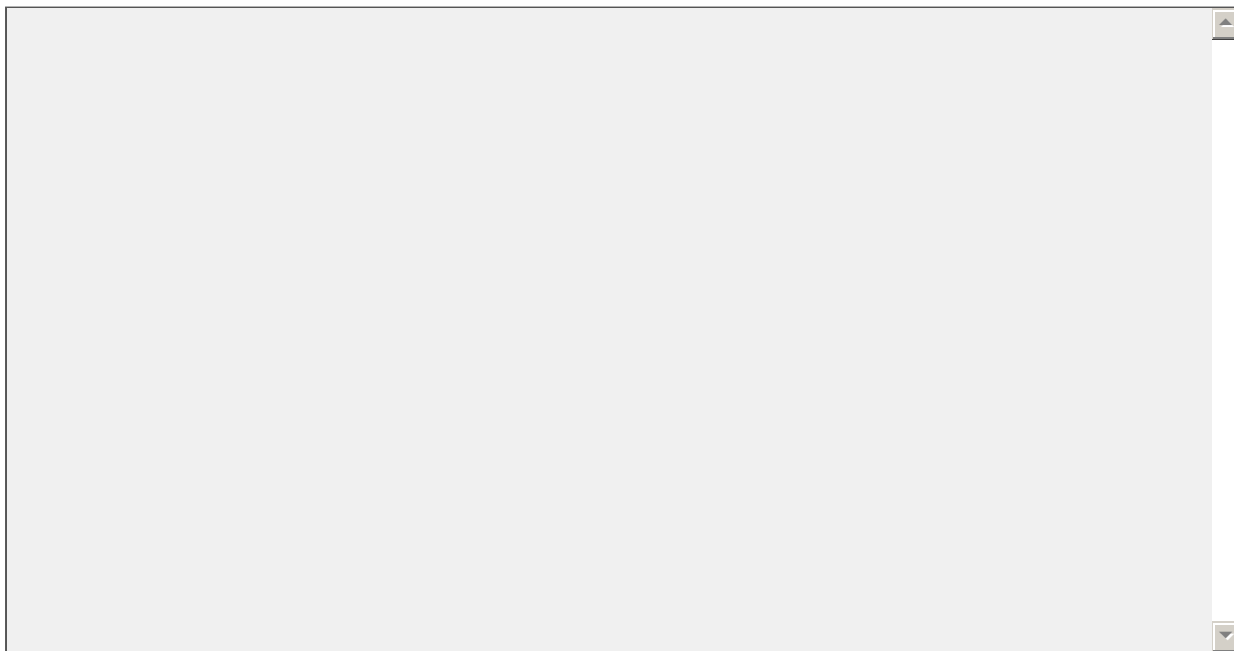


14. Do you have any alternative suggestions?

- Yes No

Alternative suggestions for assessment criteria

15. Please provide your suggestions.



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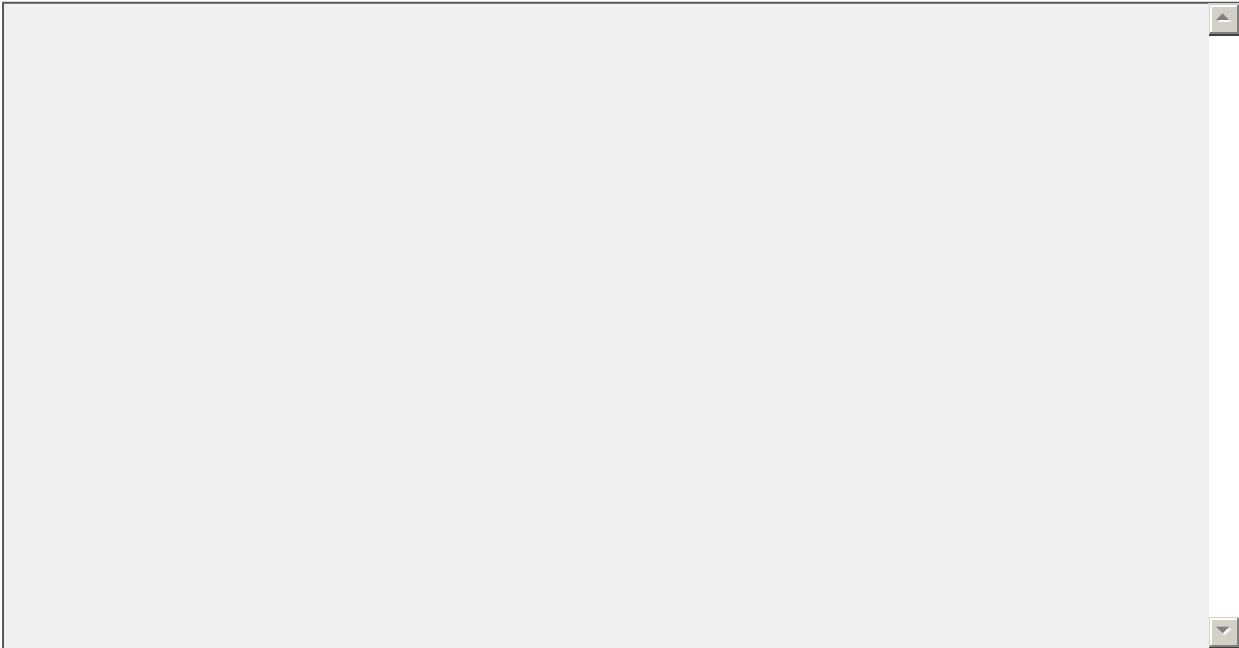
Exclusions to the Community Festivals Funding

The Community Festivals Fund will not normally provide funding for the activities listed under exclusions in the draft revised framework.

16. Do you agree with the exclusions as outlined in the draft revised framework?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide your views

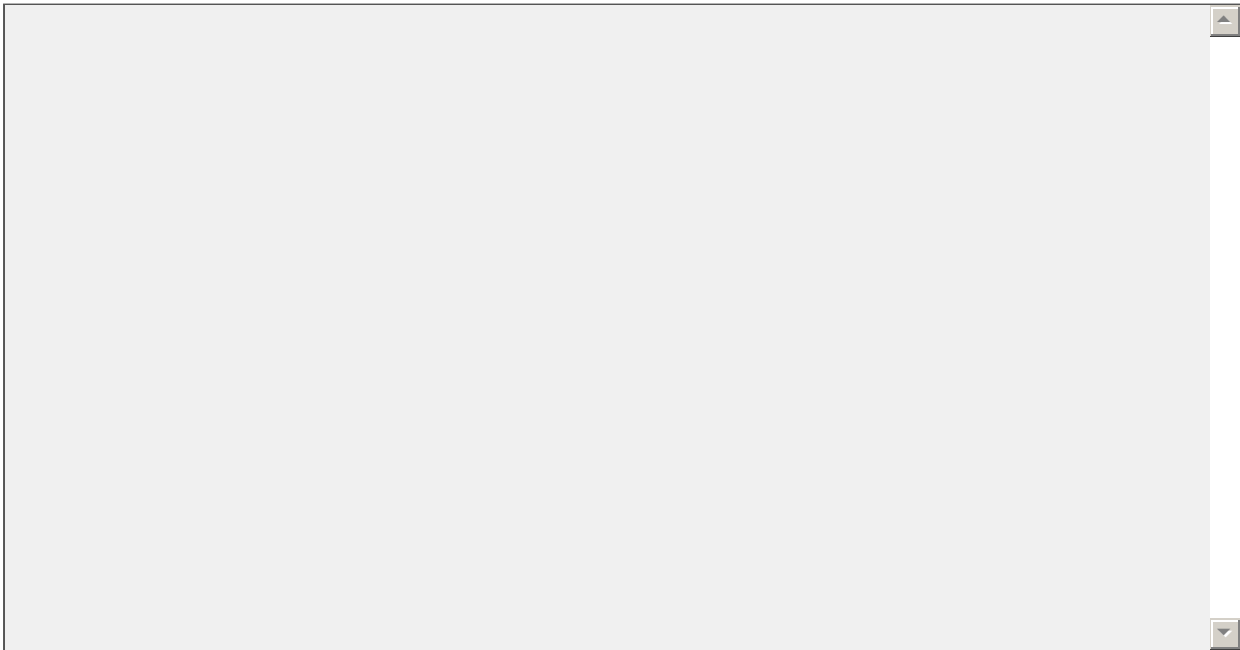


17. Do you have any alternative suggestions?

- Yes No

Alternative suggestions for exclusions

18. Please provide your suggestions.



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Administration of the Community Festivals Fund

Administration of the Community Festivals Fund as outlined in the draft revised framework

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has overall policy responsibility for the Community Festivals Fund while responsibility for making awards to individual festivals rests with individual councils. The Department will make an annual allocation to each Council based on population with a weighting for multiple deprivation.

Each Council will be required to adhere to the overarching policy framework set out in the revised document. Councils will have flexibility to develop their own application processes and detailed criteria for funding provided it is consistent with the policy framework. Template application and evaluation forms demonstrating best practice are available from the Department and can be tailored to suit the needs of each Council.

Councils will be required to carry out the ten functions listed a) to j) in the revised framework.

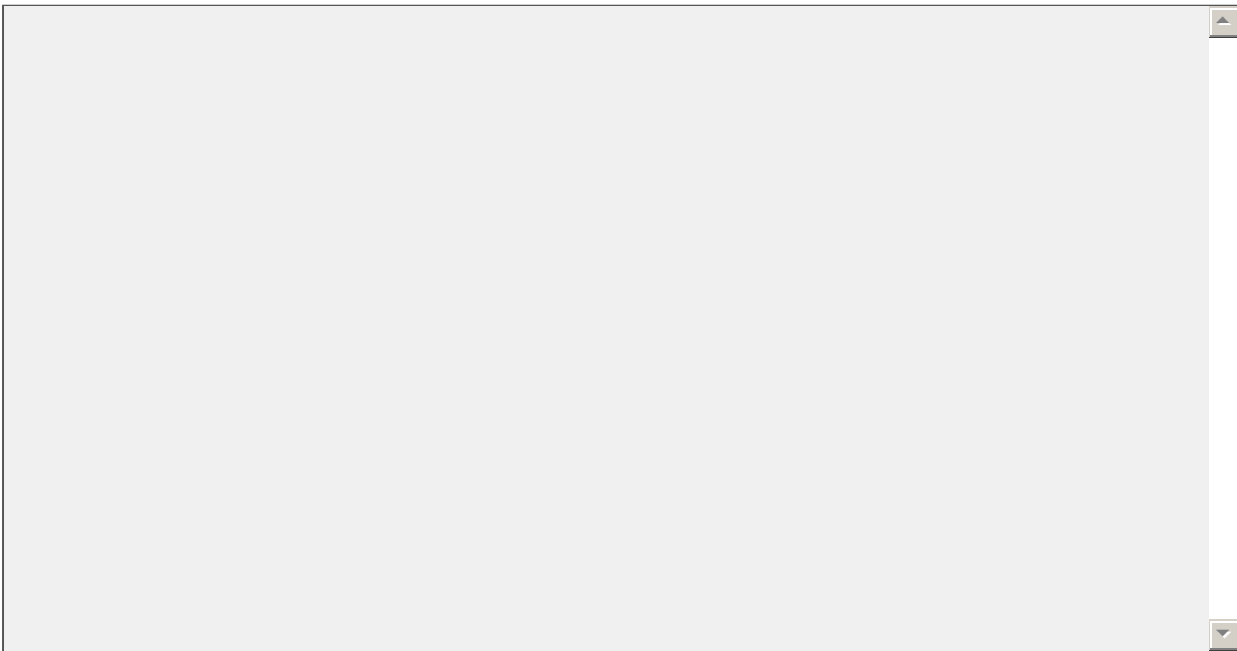
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Agreement with the administration of the Community Festival Fund

19. Do you agree with the proposals for the administration of the Community Festivals Fund as outlined in the draft revised framework?

- Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

Please provide your views

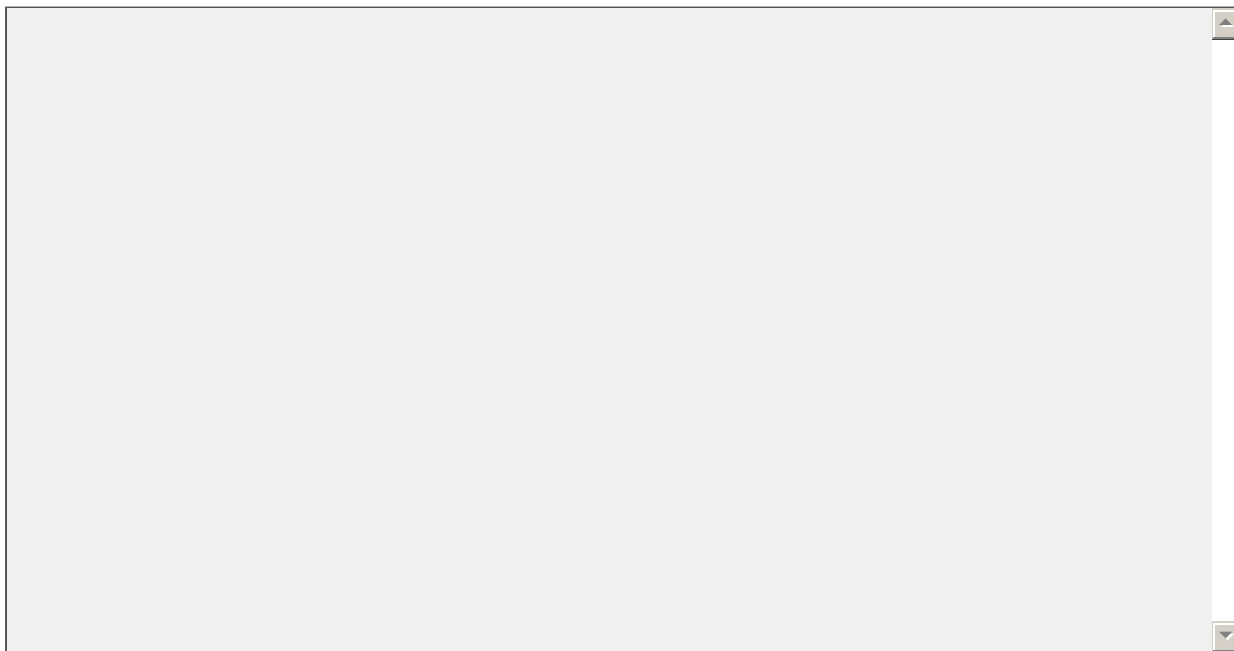
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20. Do you have any alternative suggestions?

- Yes No

Alternative suggestions for administration of Community Festivals Fund

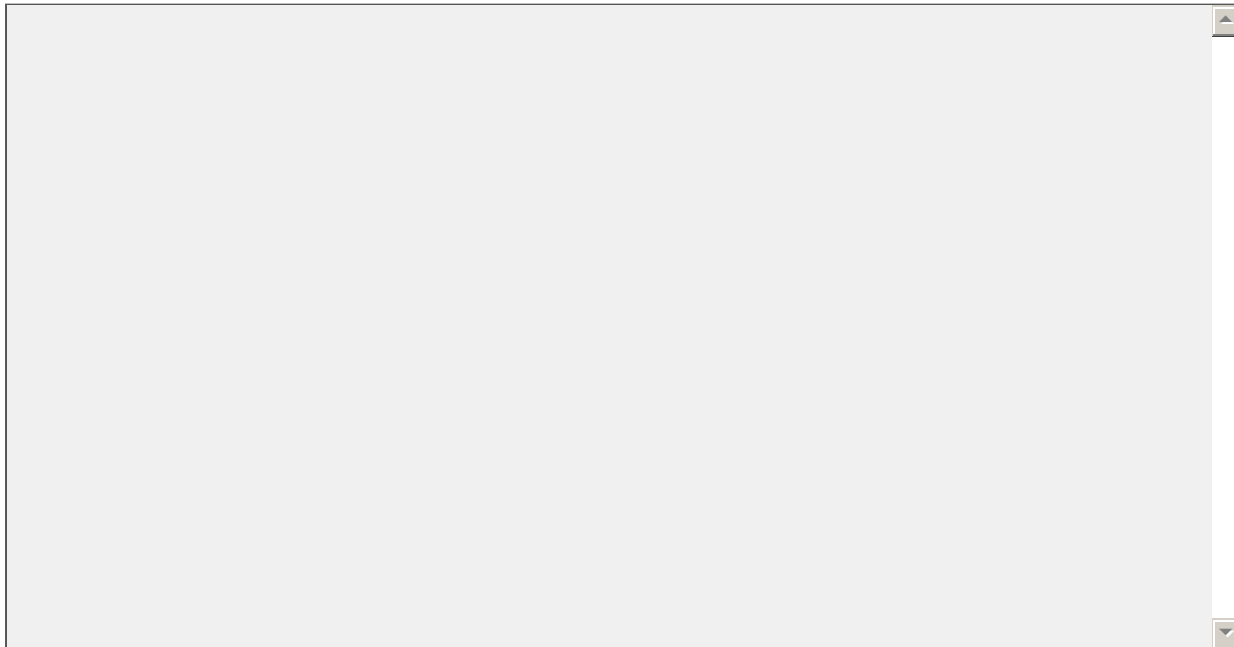
21. Please provide your suggestions.

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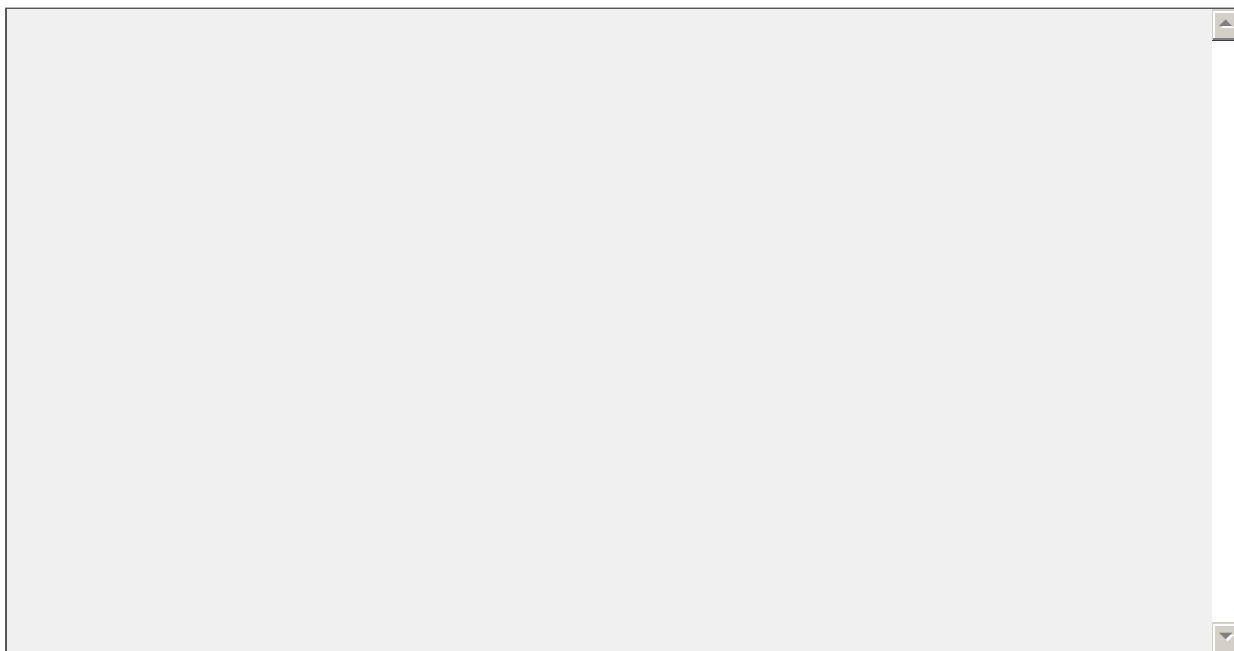
Other comments relating to the draft revised Community Festivals Fund Frame...

22. Please provide any other comments relating to the draft revised Community Festivals Fund Policy and Guidance Framework.



Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

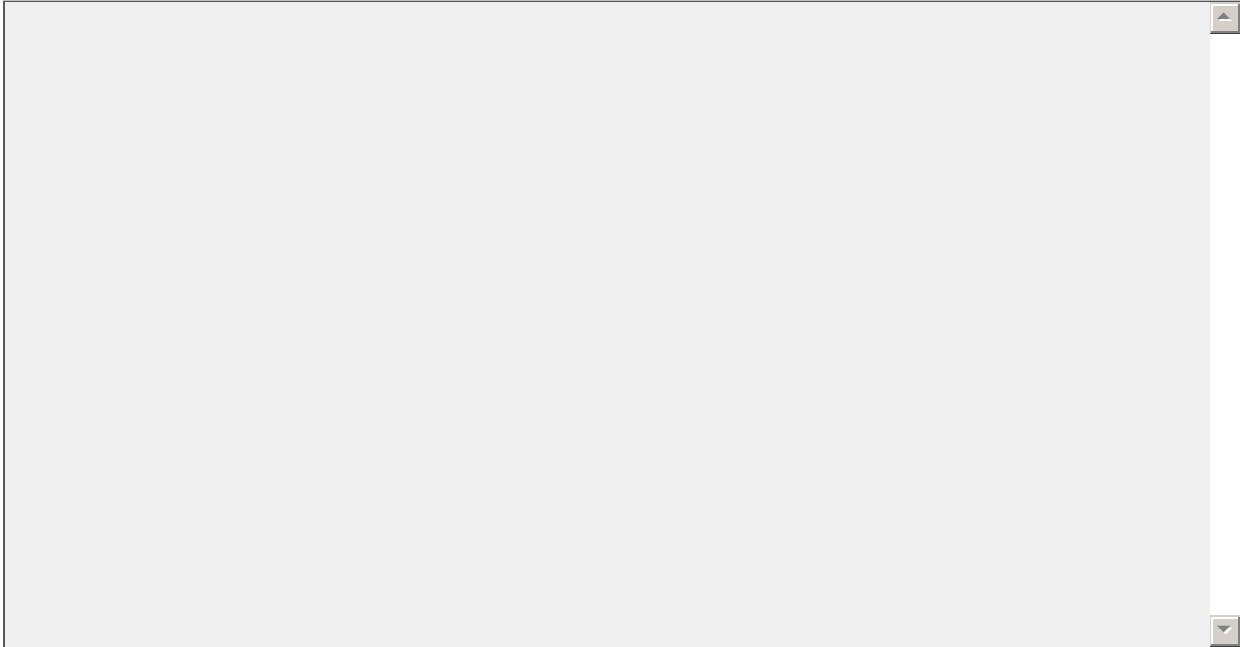
23. Is there any other data or information that might be drawn upon to help us to assess the equality impact of the proposals?



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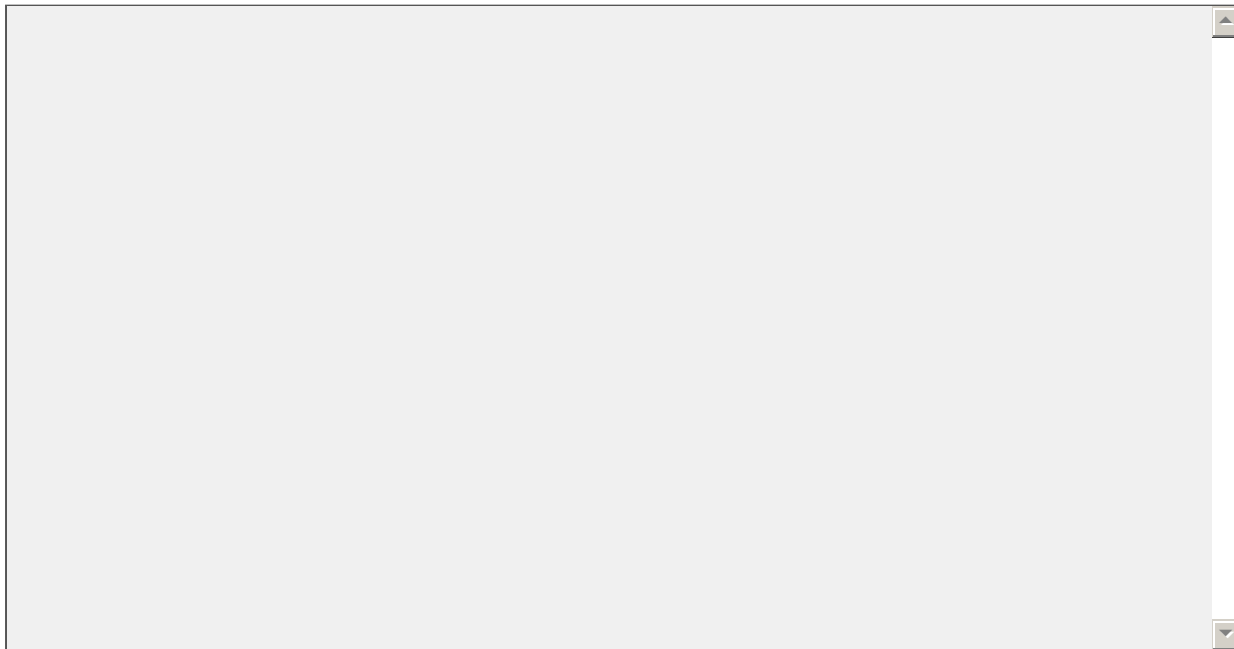
Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

24. Do you consider that the Community Festivals Fund will have any positive or negative equality impacts on any of the groups included within Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, and if so, how?



Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)

25. Do you consider that there are any other actions in relation to the Community Festivals Fund that would better promote equality of opportunity and if so, what are they?



Responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation

26. Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Individual

Organisation

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Individuals

27. Title

Mr

Mrs

Ms

Miss

Other (please specify)

28. What is your first name?

29. What is your surname?

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Organisations

30. What is the name of the organisation?

31. How many people are there within your organisation?

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Personal Information

32. Gender

- Male Female

33. Age

- under 16 years 45-54 years
 16-24 years 55-64 years
 25-34 years 65 years and over
 35-44 years

34. Community Background: Regardless of whether we practice religion, most of us in Northern Ireland are seen as either Catholic or Protestant. Please indicate which community background you are a member of:

- Protestant Community Neither Protestant nor Catholic Community
 Catholic Community

Personal information continued

35. Marital Status

- Single Widowed Divorced
 Married/cohabiting Separated Other

36. Disability: Are your day-to-day activities limited because of a health problem or disability which has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

- Yes, limited a lot Yes, limited a little No

37. Do you have dependants? (i.e. do you have responsibility for a child, a person with a disability or an older person)

- Yes No

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Confidentiality

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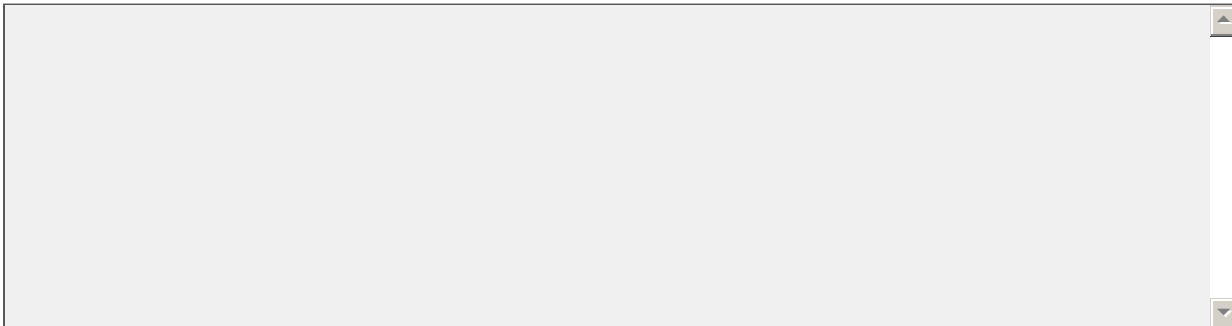
38. Do you want your response to be treated as confidential?

Yes

No

Reasons for requesting confidentiality

39. Please state clearly your reasons for requesting confidentiality.



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Thank you for participating

Thank you for taking time to participate in this public consultation.