



Subject:	Correspondence received from the Department for Communities
Date:	10th October, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the correspondence received from the Department for Communities, in response to the Access and Inclusion Fund timeframe.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee, at its meeting in June, received an update in relation to the Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2023-24. During the meeting, concerns were raised in relation to the time constraints of the programme and the need for the Council to have projects prepared for the anticipated annual funding for successive years. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Communities to reaffirm its concerns in relation to the short timeframe available for the delivery of the Fund.
3.2	Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Permanent Secretary (Appendix one) and a response has been received for consideration (Appendix 2).
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None.
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – BCC Letter to DfC - Access and Inclusion Fund Appendix 2 - DfC Response - Access and Inclusion Fund