

# Legal and Civic Services Department

## Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGR140623

Email [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Date 9 August, 2023

Colum Boyle  
Department for Communities  
Permanent Secretary  
Causeway Exchange  
1-7 Bedford Street  
Belfast  
BT2 7EG

Dear Permanent Secretary,

### **Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2023-24**

At its meeting in June, Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed that the Council would write to you to outline that, whilst the Committee welcomed the opportunity to apply for and administer the Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2023-24 on behalf of Belfast based arts, culture (including leisure) and heritage organisations, the Council wished to highlight its concerns in relation to the short timeframe available for the delivery of the Programme.

The Committee also requested that the Department consider the potential for a more flexible approach to in-year funding and to explore with Council any potential mechanisms to carry over funding, including consideration of innovative joint investment or funding models so that opportunities for strategic alignment of joint priorities and projects could be achieved.

I look forward to receiving your comments on the issues I have raised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eilish McGoldrick'.

**Eilish McGoldrick**  
Democratic Services Officer

**Belfast City Council**, Legal and Civic Services Department  
City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS  
Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405  
Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast