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| Subject: | Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2024-25 |
| Date: | 11 September 2024 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Greer, Director of Economic Development |
| Contact Officer: | Chris McCreery, Manager, Culture Development Unit |

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| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. 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 matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. 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"/> |

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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | <p>The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that the Chief Executive exercise his delegated authority to:</p> <p>Grant permission for Council to apply for, promote, assess and manage the Access and Inclusion Programme 2024-25</p> |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| | <p>The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that the Chief Executive exercise his delegated authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant permission for Council to apply for, promote, assess and manage the Access and Inclusion Programme 2024-25 |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p>In line with previous years, it is expected that the Department for Communities will be inviting local Councils to administer the Access and Inclusion Programme 2024-25 within their respective local Council areas and to apply for funding to the Department. Whilst the Departments for Communities capital budget is currently fully allocated, approval is requested to launch the programme as a competitive process should the Department open the funding at a later date in 2024/25.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>The Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Improve access to arts, culture and active recreation venues across NI for people with disabilities. ii. Make arts, cultural and active recreation venues more inclusive across society; and iii. Increase participation in arts, culture and active recreation activities by people with disabilities. |
| 3.3 | <p>The Council oversees the assessment and recommendation of projects via a competitive open call internally and externally and is responsible for delivery of all projects in receipt of funding.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p>The Culture Development Unit has managed the programme since its inception in 2018/19. Previous years have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018/19 - 14 external projects and 2 council projects with grants equating to £301,074 • 2019/20 – 5 external projects and 3 council projects with grants equating to £115,730 • 2020/21 – 7 external projects and 1 council project with grants equating to £129,438 • 2021/22 – 5 external projects with grants equating to £90,520 • 2022/23 – 3 external projects and 1 council project with grants equating to £99,701 |

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| 3.5 | 2023/24 – Funding was reduced by 50%, resulting in 2 external projects with grants equating to £30,926 |
| 3.6 | Examples of projects supported include improved access to City Hall and the Tropical Ravine; easier access for audience and participants to not for profit cultural venues across the city; installation of new specialised playground facilities and changing spaces; and provision of equipment to provide immersive theatrical experiences for children with complex needs. |
| 3.7 | Capital works and equipment costs are eligible under this programme. The maximum grant available is £30,000, (the maximum project cost cannot exceed £80,000), and applicants are required to contribute at least 10% of the total project costs. To receive a £30,000 grant therefore, applicants must provide a contribution of at least £3,000. |
| 3.8 | The Department for Communities is particularly keen to welcome applications for Changing Places facilities, accessible equipment for play parks and projects that will impact positively on sustainability and climate change. Projects must complete on or before 31 March 2025. |
| 3.9 | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Contribution of at least 10% of project cost is an eligibility condition. This resource will need to be sourced by the applicant. Council has staff resources to oversee the administration of this Programme.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The Culture Development Unit will work closely with the Council's Equality Unit and the Department for Communities to ensure positive equality implications which is the central component of the Programme. Officers will discuss the Programme with the Council's Disability Advisory Panel. There are no rural needs or good relations implications.</p> <p>There are no direct Equality or Good Relations implications associated with this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | None |