



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion: Arts Matter NI Campaign
<b>Date:</b>	17th August, 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a response which has been received from Mr. Leo O'Reilly, Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities, in relation to the Council's motion on the Arts Matter NI Campaign.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Note the response and take any such action as may be determined.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b> The Council, at its meeting on 4th June, passed the following motion on the Arts Matter NI Campaign, which had been proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor McAllister:

	<p>“This Council asserts the value of the arts in our everyday lives, including our wellbeing, education, inclusion as well as our creative and evening economy and our tourism offering.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council extends its formal support to the Arts Matter NI campaign for equal funding and agrees that an all Party delegation meet the Permanent Secretary at the Department for Communities to demand more funds for the arts.”</p>
3.2	<p>A response has now been received from Mr. O’Reilly, a copy of which is attached.</p>
3.3	<p>Mr. O’Reilly states that the Arts Council for Northern Ireland provides financial support to the arts sector and is funded via grant-in-aid by the Department for Communities.</p>
3.4	<p>He explains that the Department for Communities’ overall budget for this year has been reduced and that this has been reflected across multiple funding streams. As a result, the Arts Council had been allocated £10,092,480, compared to £10,572,000 in the previous year. He points out that the Arts Council allocates this funding, along with funding from the Arts Lottery Fund, based upon its assessment of the merits of individual projects, and that the Department for Communities has no input into that process.</p>
3.5	<p>Mr. O’Reilly adds that his Department is keeping its in-year financial position under review but that, at this stage, it has no additional funding to make available to the Arts Council in the current year. He concludes by stating that the Council would be informed if this position were to change and suggests, in light of that, that the meeting called for within the Council’s motion be deferred at this time.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Document Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Response from Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities</p>