



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Capital Programme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	9th January, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Clare Mullen, Manager Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts, ext.3770

<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 seek approval from Members to act as the lead management agent for the Department for Communities' (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme 2018 /2019, on behalf of Belfast-based cultural organisations.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to agree to the Council's role in promoting the Access and Inclusion Capital Programme and supporting organisations to access the funding.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Capital Programme aims to increase accessibility at cultural venues across NI. At a meeting hosted by DfC in early December 2018, Councils were advised of a funding opportunity to support small-scale capital investments to improve access to cultural venues. DfC advised that it was planning to open a call for applications from eligible locations, with a closing date of 16 January 2019.</p>
3.2	<p>The available budget across Northern Ireland is £750,000 and the maximum funding available to each project is £30,000. Council-owned arts and cultural venues are eligible to apply for support as well as independently run arts and cultural venues, where demonstrable need is evidenced.</p>
3.3	<p>DfC has asked all Councils to act as a conduit for the funding, helping prioritise those applications that should benefit from support and helping the organisations with the procurement process, where appropriate. DfC has confirmed that there is no match-funding requirement from Councils, but they will require the Councils to work with successful projects to ensure that the funding is accounted for and that expenditure is in line with the application.</p>
3.4	<p>In order to progress this process, DfC has asked the Councils to engage with relevant cultural organisations in their local area to make them aware of the opportunity. Interested parties will be asked to submit an expression of interest, with a closing date of 16 January 2019. After this date, eligible projects will be ranked based on an agreed set of criteria, including demonstration of need and ability to deliver in the timeframe</p>
3.5	<p>As part of this process, there will also be an opportunity for Council-owned cultural venues to apply for support to enhance the accessibility of the venues.</p>
	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.6	<p>There is no requirement for match-funding from Council. The funding will be provided by DfC: up to £30,000 per eligible project. The total available funding across NI is £750,000.</p>
	<p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></b></p>
3.7	<p>A condition of the offer is that Councils have to carry out an accessibility audit of venues across the city. Officers have confirmed with the Equality &amp; Good Relations Unit that this condition has been met. Over 1000 access audits have been completed in partnership with Disabled Go and AccessAble.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None