



Subject:	Update on Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Capital Programme
Date:	6th March, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Clare Mullen, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts Manager, ext. 3770

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the progress of the Department for Communities' (DfC) Access and Inclusion programme, including details of the organisations that will benefit from the support provided through this programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the report, in particular, the number of organisations which will benefit and the amount of funding that will be distributed by the end of March, 2019.

3.0	Main report
3.1	At the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 9th January, Members agreed to the Council acting as the management agent for DfC's Access and Inclusion Capital Programme and supporting organisations to access the funding.
3.2	The Access and Inclusion Capital Programme aims to increase accessibility at cultural venues across Northern Ireland. DfC invited all local councils to act as a conduit for the funding with an available regional budget of £750,000. The programme is designed to support the capital costs (either works or purchase of items) of projects which will improve accessibility to local cultural venues in the city. The maximum grant available to each project was £30,000. Projects and spend are to be completed by 31st March, 2019.
3.3	Eligible organisations across the Belfast City Council area were invited to submit applications to the Council by 18th January, 2019. The applications were assessed by a panel of Council officers who made recommendations to DfC for final approval. The Council received 22 applications, and eligible projects were ranked based on an agreed set of criteria, including demonstration of need, state of readiness and ability to deliver within the timeframe.
3.4	Additionally, officers worked alongside colleagues in Legal Services and Property and Projects, as well as the unit's Business Manager, to ensure compliance with the overall terms and conditions of the Letter of Offer, in order to mitigate against any potential risks in the oversight of the programme.
3.5	<p>A total of 16 applications have been awarded support under this programme, with a total investment of £301,074. Details of these projects and the funding awards are listed below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accidental Theatre - £29,999 – Disabled lift repair and upgrade 2. Belfast City Council - £2,300 – Visitor exhibition hearing portable loop system 3. Belfast City Council - £17,100 – Chair lift at rear City Hall access door 4. Belfast Photo Festival - £27,081 – Disability Exhibition Facility 5. Black Box - £26,785 – Access and Inclusion Project 6. Crescent Arts Centre - £24,977 – Disability Access & Inclusion Project 7. Exchange Place Resources - £29,500 – Making Accessible Exchange Place 8. McCracken Cultural Society - £24,800 – Disability door access and toilet upgrade 9. Ormeau Table Tennis Club - £8,117 – Accessible table tennis facilities 10. Quotidian Word on the Street - £6,000 – Disability accessible poetry jukebox

	<p>11. Spectrum Centre - £24,864 – Spectrum Inclusion lift upgrade</p> <p>12. Strand Arts Centre - £21,385 – Mobile Screening Project</p> <p>13. Strand Arts Centre - £16,012 – Audio Visual Accessibility Programme</p> <p>14. Theatre NI - £20,022 – Captioning Support Programme</p> <p>15. University of Atypical - £11,220 – Access to Art project</p> <p>16. Ulster Orchestra - £10,912 – Access and inclusion programme.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>DfC has offered the Council up to £301,074 to support up to these 16 projects. The Council will contribute sufficient officer resources in order to provide effective oversight. There is no requirement for match-funding from the Council. DfC has indicated that the Programme may re-open for applications during 2019/20.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.7	<p>The impact of this Programme will have positive implications for equality of accessibility to various cultural venues, touring products, and festivals across the city. No specific rural needs impact as this activity is all taking place in Belfast but the programme is available across NI.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None