

Report on	Update on Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2022/23
Date of Meeting	12 th January 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Arts & Culture Leigh Gilmore, Participation Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide Members with an update on the 2022/23 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme
1.2	To provide members with the list of projects approved for funding by Department for Communities.
1.3	To seek approval to set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for each project where required.
1.4	To seek approval to utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required and
2.0	Background
2.1	The Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2022/23 is designed to improve access to and participation in arts and cultural activity and leisure and outdoor recreational activity by people with disabilities across Northern Ireland.
2.2	The Department for Communities invited Local Councils to apply for funding available through the programme and to assist in the prioritising of project submissions developed by Mid Ulster District Council, prior to submission to the Department for Communities prior to final Departmental assessment.
2.3	The maximum funding available for each project is £30,000 with up to 90% grant funding being provided.
2.4	Council-owned culture & arts, leisure, parks and outdoor recreation and tourism projects were eligible to apply.
2.5	Applicants are eligible to apply for amounts up to the maximum of £30,000 per project, with a 10% funding contribution requirement from Mid Ulster District Council.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	DfC launched the grant programme on 20 October 2022 and required applications to be submitted by the deadline of 17 November 2022.
3.2	In total, 3 projects were submitted by Mid Ulster District Council to the Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2022/23, with 2 projects successfully progressing and being allocated 90% funding (total value of projects - £35,498.00)
3.3	<p>Following assessment by Department for Communities, 2 project submissions have now been approved with a total funding allocation by the Department for Communities of £31,949.00 (10% funding contribution of £3,549.00 to be met by the relevant Departments within Mid Ulster District Council).</p> <p>The 2 projects approved for funding are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessible Picnic Tables (funding offer £4,950.00) Acquisition of 10 Accessible picnic tables which will be placed at various locations within the Parks Departments remit within Mid Ulster District Council area, including picnic areas, parks and open spaces. The provision of these additional accessible picnic tables will ensure that those with limited mobility are not excluded from enjoying the benefits of the great outdoors with family and friends. 2. Mobile Cubbie Sensory Hub (funding Offer £26,999.00) Acquisition of one mobile Cubical Sensory Hub for Mid Ulster District Council including a 5 year service and software licence contract. The Cubbie Sensory hub can be used for people with autism and neurodiversity sensory needs. As the Cubical Unit is mobile, the unit can be utilised at other locations and at corporate events delivered throughout the year by Mid Ulster District Council (e.g. Halloween and Christmas events) as a place where stress and anxiety can be relieved.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: Projects submitted are required to provide matched funding of 10% (projects are 90% funded through the DfC Access and Inclusion programme 2022/23). The 10% match funding requirement can be met from within the existing budgets of applicant Services within Mid Ulster District Council</p>
	<p>Human: Staff time and staff resource allocated to delivering projects. This can be met from within existing resources within each of the Service teams responsible for delivering each project.</p>

	<p>Risk Management: All projects approved for funding by DfC, will be required to be completed by 31st March 2023.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: The Purpose of the DfC Access and Inclusion funding programme 2022/23 is to provide capital funding to ensure that access to arts, culture, leisure, recreational and outdoor activities is equitable throughout all 11 local authority areas.</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: Rural needs are considered as part of the planned activity undertaken by Council Services including Culture & Arts, Leisure, Parks Tourism and Property Services.</p> <p>Rural needs are also considered as part of the delivery of the DfC Access and Inclusion Programme 2022/23</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>Members are asked to note the update on the 2022/23 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme and;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for each project identified in section 3.3, where required. • Approval to utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required, to deliver the projects identified in section 3.3 of this report • Approval to allocate 10% Match funding for projects approved for funding by the Department for Communities through its 2022/23 Access and Inclusion Programme with funding to be met from within existing resources that will be responsible for the management and delivery of each project.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A