

<b>Report on</b>	Update on Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts Claire Linney, Assistant Director of Development Anne Reid, Parks and Countryside Development Officer

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide members with an update on the 2021/22 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme
1.2	To provide members with the list of additional 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
1.5	To seek approval to initiate a tender process to appoint suitably qualified contractors for the installation of projects as identified in section 3 of this report and where required.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2021/22 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, 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 the applicant.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	12 projects had previously been submitted by Mid Ulster District Council to the Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2021/22, with 11 of those projects successfully progressing and being allocated 90% funding (total value of projects - £197,182.10)
3.2	Following the identification of underspend by the Department for Communities, an additional 5 projects have been identified by MUDC and which have now also been approved with an additional funding allocation by the Department for Communities of £96,024 (10% funding contribution of £10,670.10 to be met by Mid Ulster District Council).
3.3	<p>The 5 additional projects approved for funding are as follows:</p> <p><b>1. Accessible Benches for community venues throughout the Mid Ulster District</b>  <b>Total Project cost: £29,990</b>  <b>Grant Amount: £26,991</b>  The funding will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• purchase accessible benches.</li> </ul> <p>Community facilities will apply to the Council for the benches through an open call. These benches will allow for greater disability access to arts, culture and community activities throughout the District.</p> <p><b>2. Glenone Riverside Walk</b>  <b>Total Project cost: £20,175.00</b>  <b>Grant Amount: £18,157</b>  The funding will be used to improve accessibility within the Glenone Riverside Walk (linear path from Portglenone Bridge along the side of the River Bann to the end of Glenone Forest), approx 2km. The funding will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the inaccessible gates and restricted access that is currently in place with accessible solutions.</li> <li>• Include accessible picnic tables, bench seating and designated disabled parking bays within the site.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Newferry Accessible Parking and Picnic Tables</b>  <b>Total Project cost: £19,675.00</b>  <b>Grant Amount: £17,707</b>  Stage 1 of the Lower Bann Blueway from Portglenone to Newferry was completed in 2019 with the provision of 25 additional coarse angling stands installed from the Portglenone Bridge upstream. Further improvements were implemented in March 2021 with the installation of an accessible canoe pontoon and hoist/crew lift at New Ferry.</p>

	<p>Current access at the facilities for car parking and picnic area is restricted due to high kerbs and grass areas, which presents challenges for those who use wheelchairs to move around the site.</p> <p>This funding will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure the access way is improved to cover any gaps on the approach to the slipway.</li> <li>• The dropped kerb leading to the slipway will be tidied up to close the current gap.</li> <li>• The inclusion of an accessible parking bay adjacent to the dropped kerb will be put in place.</li> <li>• A designated picnic area with accessible tables will also be installed adjacent the accessible parking. This will include accessible pathways and access.</li> <li>• Additionally accessible bench seating will be installed.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Installation of DDA compliant pathways and raised beds at Castledawson Allotments</b></p> <p><b>Total Project cost: £26,980.00</b></p> <p><b>Grant Amount: £24,282</b></p> <p>The funding will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Surface all onsite pathways.</li> <li>• Install raised beds in order to facilitate greater utilisation by people with disabilities and wheelchair users.</li> </ul> <p><b>5. Installation of DDA compliant pathway and two angling stands at Curran picnic site</b></p> <p><b>Total Project cost: £9,874.10</b></p> <p><b>Grant Amount: £8,887</b></p> <p>The funding will be used to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install DDA compliant pathways.</li> </ul> <p>Provide two assessable angling stands at Curran picnic site Castledawson.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: Projects submitted are required to provide matched funding of 10% (projects are 90% funded through the DfC Access and Inclusion programme 2021/22). The 10% match funding requirement can be met from within the existing budgets of applicant Services within Mid Ulster District Council</p> <p>Human:</p>

	<p>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: The additional 5 projects approved for funding by DfC, will be required to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.</p>
<b>4.2</b>	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: The Purpose of the DfC Access and Inclusion funding programme 2021/22 is to provide capital funding to ensure that access to arts, culture, leisure and 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 &amp; Arts, Leisure, Parks Tourism and Property Services.  Rural needs are also considered as part of the delivery of the DfC Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the update on the 2021/22 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme
5.2	To seek approval to set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for each project as detailed in section 3 of the report, where required.
5.3	To seek approval to utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required, to deliver the projects identified and
5.4	To seek approval to initiate a tender process to appoint suitably qualified contractors for the installation of projects as identified in section 3 of the report and where required.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A