

<b>Report on</b>	Update on Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts Nigel Hill, Head of Parks Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure Michael Browne, Head of Tourism

<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 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
1.5	To seek approval to initiate a tender process to appoint a suitably qualified contractor to install automated doors at the five locations as identified within section 3 of this report.
<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	In total, 12 projects were submitted by Mid Ulster District Council to the Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2021/22, with 11 projects successfully progressing and being allocated 90% funding (total value of projects - £197,182.10)
3.2	Following assessment by Department for Communities, 11 project submissions have now been approved with a total funding allocation by the Department for Communities of £177,463.89 (10% funding contribution of £19,718.21 to be met by Mid Ulster District Council).
3.3	<p>The 11 projects approved for funding are as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1. Burnavon Access and Inclusion Project</b> <b>Total Project cost: £13,000.10</b></p> <p>The funding will be used for:</p> <p>a) upgrading existing support hearing system throughout the facility. b) To purchase equipment, including adjustable lighting and AV cameras, which will enhance areas used for workshops, events, and activities. This will particularly be of benefit to persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as those with sight problems and restricted movement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2. Greenvale Leisure Centre PoolPod Pool Access System</b> <b>Total Project cost: £30,000</b></p> <p>The project seeks to install a Pool Pod pool hoist at the main pool area of Greenvale Leisure Centre. The addition of the Pool pod pool hoist will provide equal access for users with a disability, allowing unrestricted access to both the main and learner pool, without the requirement for users to pre-book and/ or face lengthy waiting times at poolside/ reception.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. Bridewell Automated/Power Assisted Accessible Doors &amp; Loop Systems</b> <b>Total Project cost: £10,500</b></p> <p>To ensure that the building is accessible to all, this project proposes to improve access by replacing the existing heavy wooden doors with automated accessible doors, and installing an updated Loop system in the main hall/event space and a portable loop system in the main reception area.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. Provision of 1No. Ability / Wheelchair swing</b> <b>Total Project cost: £14,982</b></p> <p>This project focuses on improving inclusive play provision at Fairhill Play Area enabling all children, regardless of ability, to play together. This will be achieved through the provision of an Ability / wheelchair swing.</p>

**5. Provision of 13no. Independent “Hearing loop systems” at MUDC Leisure sites:-**

**Total Project cost: £5,000**

Dungannon Leisure Centre (2), Cookstown Leisure Centre (1), MidUlster Sports Arena (2), Moneymore Rec. Centre (2), Greenvale Leisure Centre(2), Meadowbank Sports Arena (2), Maghera Rec. Centre(2).

This equipment will assist patrons with their hearing restrictions to communicate with Customer Service areas and assist in their participation of meetings:-

1no. Permanently located at Main Reception Area

1no. Mobile, to assist with meetings/ conferences/ workshops etc.

**6. Installation of - automated / power assist doors at Mid Ulster Sports Arena**

**Total Project cost: £16,000**

Installation of automated doors throughout Pavilion 2 the leisure facility detailed below –

- Entrance
- Internal door
- Changing room

Installing automated doors in this venue will ensure it is more accessible for members of the public who wouldn't ordinarily have had confidence or ability to access leisure facilities.

**7. Installation of - automated / power assist doors at Maghera Leisure Centre**

**Total Project cost: £24,000**

Installation of automated doors at the leisure facility detailed below –

- Front entrance

Installing automated doors in this venue will ensure it is more accessible for members of the public who wouldn't ordinarily have had confidence or ability to access leisure facilities.

**8. Installation of - automated / power assist doors at Cookstown Leisure Centre.**

**Total Project cost: £26,000**

Installation of automated doors throughout the leisure facility detailed below –

- wet changing area
- viewing gallery
- main gym
- main hall
- meeting room

Installing automated doors in this venue will ensure it is more accessible for members of the public who wouldn't ordinarily have had confidence or ability to access leisure facilities.

**9. Installation of - automated / power assist doors at Greenvale Leisure Centre.**

**Total Project cost: £30,000**

Installation of automated doors throughout the leisure facility detailed below –

- sports hall
- main dryside corridor x 2
- swimming changing
- gym
- wet changing area

Installing automated doors in this venue will ensure it is more accessible for members of the public who wouldn't ordinarily have had confidence or ability to access leisure facilities.

**10. Installation of - automated / power assist doors at Tobermore Golf Centre.**

**Total Project cost: £23,000**

Installation of automated doors at the leisure facility detailed below –

- Front entrance
- Rear exit
- Internal doors to bays

Installing automated doors in this venue will ensure it is more accessible for members of the public who wouldn't ordinarily have had confidence or ability to access leisure facilities.

**11. Purchase of Accessible picnic tables.**

**Total Project cost: £4,700**

This project focuses on the purchase of 10 accessible picnic tables. These accessible picnic tables will be placed at various locations within the Parks Departments remit within the Mid-Ulster District Council area. These locations include picnic areas, parks and open spaces.

**4.0 Other Considerations**

**4.1 Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**

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

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>Risk Management: All 11 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>	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>
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 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 a suitably qualified contractor for the installation of automated doors at the five locations as identified.
<b>6.0</b>	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>
	N/A