

Report on	Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 7 th July 2021
Reporting Officer	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts
Contact Officer(s)	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts Nigel Hill, Head of Parks Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure Michael Browne, Head of Tourism

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 inform members of the 2021/22 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion funding Programme.
1.2	To inform members of the range of projects being submitted to the 2021/22 Access and Inclusion Programme by Mid Ulster District Council
2.0	Background
2.1	In 2017/18 the Department for Communities (DfC) worked in collaboration with Derry City and Strabane District Council and the Public Health Agency on the delivery of a pilot programme aimed at improving access to, and participation in, Arts and Cultural activities by people with disabilities across the Derry City and Strabane District Council area.
2.2	Following the success of the pilot programme, DfC secured budget in 2018/19, 2019/20, 2020/21 and now 2021/22 to develop an Access and Inclusion Programme for roll out across the 11 Council areas in Northern Ireland.
2.3	The previous 2020/21 programme resulted in letters of offer totalling in excess of £270,000.00 being allocated to 12 Mid Ulster District Council projects. This funding has resulted in interventions that have greatly enhanced public access across the Council's Leisure, Tourism, Parks, walkways, recreational and Culture and Arts estate.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The aim of the Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2021/22 is to improve access to and participation in arts and cultural activity and leisure and outdoor recreational activity by people with specific access needs across Northern Ireland.

3.2	The Department for Communities has invited Local Councils to apply for the funding and to prioritise project submissions prior to submission to the Department for Communities for further consideration.		
3.3	Potential projects have been identified from internal Council services (Arts & Culture, Parks and Leisure and Tourism Services). These are summarised in section 3.11 below.		
3.4	The maximum funding available for each project applied for is £27,000.		
3.5	For the 2021/22 Access and Inclusion Programme, the Department for Communities has stipulated that applicant Council's must be in a position to meet 10% of project costs. (In previous year's the Access and Inclusion Programme was 100% funded, up to £30,000. Moving forward, and to ensure greater maximisation of funding and greater spread of projects across all Council areas, the Department's funding will be awarded at a maximum of 90%, with 10% match funding met from within applicant budget resources).		
3.6	In addition, for the 2021/22 Access and Inclusion Programme, the Department for Communities has stipulated that all project submissions must be accompanied by an Accessibility Audit report identifying need of project(s) proposed.		
3.7	The Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion funding is only eligible for capital expenditure incurred from date of letter of offer until 31 st March 2022		
3.8	All applications submitted to the Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22 are required to be assessed, scored and ranked by Mid Ulster District Council prior to all approved applications being submitted to the Department for Communities for further assessment. This role is completed annually by an assessment panel from within Mid Ulster District Council's Culture & Arts Service.		
3.9	The current 2021/22 Access and Inclusion Programme opened on 24 th May 2021 and the Closing date for receipt of all applications was 5.00pm on Wednesday 23 rd June 2021.		
3.10	Should the applications submitted by successful, all eligible projects are required to be completed by 31 st March 2022.		
3.11	<p>A summary of the applications submitted to the Access and Inclusion Programme 2021/22 for consideration by Department for Communities are as follows:</p> <p>1. Burnavon Access and Inclusion Project</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Total Project Costs</td><td>£13,000.10</td></tr> </table> <p>The funding will be used for:</p> <p>1: upgrading existing support hearing system throughout the facility.</p> <p>2: To purchase equipment, including adjustable lighting and AV cameras, which will enhance areas used for workshops, events, and activities. This will particularly</p>	Total Project Costs	£13,000.10
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be of benefit to persons with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as those with sight problems and restricted movement.

2. Greenvale Leisure Centre Pool Pod Pool Access System

Total Project Costs	£30,000.00
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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.

3. Bridewell Automated/Power Assisted Accessible Doors & Loop Systems

Total Project Costs	£10,500.00
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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.

4. Surface Upgrade Beach Walk Dungannon Park

Total Project Costs	£29,350
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This project focuses on improving the accessibility to Dungannon Park. Unfortunately, some of the path infrastructure within the Park is now in poor condition. The existing surfacing has become worn over the years and uneven throughout posing a significant challenge for people with disabilities. The aim of this project is to resurface 355 l/m of pathways in order to facilitate greater utilisation by people with disabilities and wheelchair users.

5. Provision of 1 no. Ability / Wheelchair swing

Total Project Costs	£14,982
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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.

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

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).

Total Project Costs	£5,000
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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.

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

Total Project Costs	£16,000
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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.

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

Total Project Costs	£24,000
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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.

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

Total Project Costs	£26,000
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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.

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

Total Project Costs	£30,000
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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.

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

Total Project Costs	£23,000
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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.

12. Purchase of Accessible picnic tables.

Total Project Costs	£4,700
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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.

Application to Access and Inclusion Programme	£203,878.89
MUDC Match funding requirement (10%)	<u>£22,653.21</u>
Total Costs of Projects	£226,532.10

4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: DfC may not be able to fund all successful applicants, or support the maximum available grant award requested.</p> <p>The maximum funding provided by DfC is 90% of costs up to a maximum of total project costs of £30,000. The project applicant will be required to meet 10% of project costs from within existing budget resources (up to a maximum of £3,000).</p>
	<p>Human: Staff time and staff resource processing applications and assessment and scoring of applications prior to submission to DfC.</p> <p>Can be met from within staffing existing resources.</p>
	<p>Risk Management: It is envisaged that there will be significant interest in the programme across Northern Ireland. As such the funds available, may not cover all the costs of submissions received by DfC. Projects may be rejected on basis of the limitations of funding available.</p> <p>All projects submitted for consideration, will be required to be completed by 31st March 2022.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: The Purpose of DfC funding programme is to provide capital funding to ensure that access to arts, culture, leisure and recreational activities is equitable.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>Rural needs are considered as part of the planned activity undertaken by Council Services including Arts & Culture, Leisure and Parks and Tourism.</p> <p>Rural needs are also considered as part of the delivery of the DfC 2021/22 Access and Inclusion Programme.</p>
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	Members are asked to note the information relating to the 2021/22 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme
5.2	Members are asked to note the projects being submitted by Mid Ulster District Council to the 2021/22 DfC Access and Inclusion Programme, as summarised in section 3.11 of report.

6.0	Documents Attached & References
	N/A