

<b>Report on</b>	Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21 additional leisure projects
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	11 <sup>th</sup> February 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Tony McCance, Head of Culture & Arts Sean Cavlin, Leisure and Business Development Manager

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To provide members with an update on the 2020/21 Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Funding Programme.
1.2	To provide members with a list of additional projects approved for funding by Department for Communities.
1.3	To seek approval from Council to accept the letter of offer from Department of Communities for projects identified under section 3 of the report.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Previously in September 2020, Members approved a request from the Department of Communities (DfC) to participate in, and to submit projects for consideration for funding from Culture & Arts, Leisure, Parks, Property and Tourism Services within Mid Ulster District Council.
2.2	The aim of the Department for Communities (DfC) Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2020/21 is to improve access to and participation in arts and cultural activity, leisure and outdoor recreational activity by people with disabilities across Northern Ireland.
2.3	This Capital programme is designed to support small scale capital investments to improve access to arts and leisure venues and recreational activities for people with disabilities.
2.4	Previously in November 2020, Members may recall that a total of 7 Mid Ulster District Council projects were initially approved by DfC Access and Inclusion Capital Programme for 2020/21 and then in December 2020, Members approved an additional 4 projects after DfC contacted Council to indicate that additional funding may be made available to support additional projects.

2.5	The Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion funding is only eligible for capital expenditure incurred from date of letter of offer until 31st March 2020.
2.6	A report detailing progress of the funded projects will be brought to a future Development Committee.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Council Officers were contacted by the Chief Leisure Officers Association Northern Ireland (CLOA) week commencing 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021 as DfC had asked CLOA to engage with all 11 Northern Ireland Councils and their respective leisure departments as additional funding may be made available to support additional projects and to ascertain if the Mid Ulster District Council leisure department would be in a position to submit further applications to the Access and Inclusion Programme 2020/21.
3.2	The officer team within Leisure subsequently identified an additional project with a total value of £16,828 to be developed to application stage and submitted this application to DfC for consideration by the closing date of Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2021.
3.3	<p>This application was assessed by DfC and approved and Council are now in receipt of a letter of offer are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of Hi-Riser Benches at Dungannon, Cookstown and Maghera leisure centres.</li> <li>• Total grant awarded: £16,828</li> <li>• This project is designed to improve accessibility within leisure centres as Hi-Riser benches are electrically operated wall-mounted changing tables that are suitable for children and adults of up to 200kg. The Hi-Riser has been designed so that it can be used with most mobile or ceiling hoists, streamlining access for transfers from a wheelchair, shower and toileting chair.</li> </ul>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: Project submitted was not required to provide matched funding as 100% funded through the DfC Access and Inclusion programme.</p> <p>Human: Staff time and staff resource allocated to delivering projects can be met from within existing resources.</p> <p>Risk Management: This additional projects, along with the 11 projects previously approved by Council and approved for funding by DfC, will be required to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p>

<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	<p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications:  The Purpose of the DfC Access and Inclusion funding programme 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 Leisure Services.</p> <p>Rural needs are also considered as part of the delivery of the DfC Access and Inclusion Programme</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Approval is sought to accept the additional funding allocation (£16,828) from Department for Communities, to deliver the additional project (as detailed under section 3 of the report).
5.2	As with previous applications taken to Council in November and December 2020, approval is sought to set up specific finance codes to incur expenditure for the project and to utilise the approved Council framework contractors, where required to deliver the project identified.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
	N/A