

Title of Report: ACNI Resilience Programme	Officer presenting: Head of Culture Author: Arts & Culture Manager
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek member approval to proceed with a Cultural Venues Resilience Programme in partnership with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland (ACNI) and Belfast City Council (BCC).

2 Background

- 2.1 The Resilience Programme is designed to help arts organisations undergo a process of change aimed at making them more effective and efficient; to improve their resilience, commercial capacity and investment readiness.
- 2.2 The programme is a wholly new joint initiative between Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) and BCC and arises from concerns highlighted by recent research, commissioned by Arts & Business NI, that arts organisations that contribute so much to the cultural infrastructure of Northern Ireland are financially fragile and face constraints upon their ability to plan strategically for the longer term. They need to be assisted to undertake a fundamental reappraisal of their mission and business operations and the Arts Council requires a Service Provider to supply business support measures aimed at securing the long term creative and financial stability of those organisations admitted to the programme, assuming little real growth in public funds and realistic expectations of contributed income from the private sector.
- 2.3 Stage One support measures will provide front-line diagnostic business services tailored to the needs of the participating cohort of client organisations and at Stage Two a scheme will assist those organisations pursue appropriate and approved change processes through a dedicated fund available to programme participants.
- 2.4 The Resilience Programme will be designed to complement existing and planned programmes of Arts & Business NI and focus on DCSDC Cultural organisations with a turnover in excess of £400,000, in the first instance. If successful, it is envisaged that this programme could be extended to other Cultural Organisations within DCSDC.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The £400,000 threshold will restrict participation in the pilot stage to 6 organisations within DCSDC including; Millennium Forum (based on annual accounts) as well as An Gaelaras, Nerve Centre, Playhouse and Greater Shantallow Community Arts (based on the 'annual arts expenditure' figures submitted for the 2017/18 Cultural Venues Fund).

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR and Other Implications

- 4.1 The budget for the proposed DCSDC element of the Resilience Programme is £60,000. Of this, £30,000 will be met by ACNI and £30,000 of non recurring funding will need to be secured as part of the rates process for the coming year.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 For members to approve in principle the participation of the proposed Resilience Programme subject to the finances becoming available for the coming financial year.

Background Papers

None