

<b>Title of Report:</b>  <b>Access Improvement Programme for Cultural Venues External Support LOO</b>	<b>Officer Presenting:</b>  <b>Author: Arts &amp; Culture Manager</b>
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To seek member approval to formally accept the detailed Letters of Offer providing additional financial support from the Department of Communities and Public Health Agency (PHA) for the delivery of the access improvement programme targeting cultural venues within the DCSDC area.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 The Access Improvement Programme was focused on the delivery of a key community planning action "...promoting accessible cultural experiences".
- 2.2 The programme was designed to build on the work of the Cultural Venues Working Group facilitated as part of the PHA funded Access and Inclusion project. One of the key objectives of this group is to secure Disability Charter status for each participating venue.
- 2.3 The Access and Inclusion project has overseen the completion of independent access audits within 24 DCSDC cultural venues as a required eligibility prerequisite for the programme.
- 2.4 The Access Improvement Programme focused on Cultural Venues defined by an eligibility criteria including: That their constitution or memorandum and articles of association (the document that governs how the organisation is run and its purpose) must state that arts, heritage, museum or culture is a primary objective of the organisation; they must be the owner/ lease holder (5 year minimum) of a public venue within the DCSDC area and in which the majority of their arts and cultural programming takes place; they must have an operational and programming focus in the DCSDC area; they will be a not-for-profit organisation.
- 2.5 The proposed capital improvements are directly related to the findings detailed within the independent access audit.

## **Key Issues**

- 2.6 The Department of Communities letter of offer is for £40,000.
- 2.7 The PHA letter of offer is for £118,245.
- 2.8 The support received from the Department of Communities and the PHA will be utilised in the delivery of access improvements for the successful applicants to the 17/18 Access Improvement Programme (total award for 17/18 equates to £178,791 subject to DCSDC final verification).

### **3 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications**

- 3.1 The remaining DCSDC allocated Access Improvement Fund budget for 17/18 will be accrued to meet the programme demands in 18/19.

### **4 Recommendations**

- 4.1 To accept the respective letters of offer from the Department of Communities and the PHA.

### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: Department of Communities Letter of Offer