

<p>Title of Report:</p> <p>DfC Access & Inclusion Programme</p>	<p>Officer Presenting:</p> <p>Author: Arts & Culture Manager</p>
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek member approval to accept the Letters of Offer from the Department of Communities (DfC) for the delivery of access improvements to cultural assets within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area totalling £201,640.

2 Background

- 2.1 Members will be aware of the £40,000 award previously secured from DfC to support the roll out of the 2018/19 Access Programme for Cultural Venues. DfC subsequently launched an NI wide Access & Inclusion programme which was open to all NI local authorities.
- 2.2 Councils Access and Inclusion Co-ordinator compiled a series of business cases for submissions to the DfC programme and secured approval to support costs awarded under the DCSDC Access Programme for Cultural Venues as well as directly deliver a number of key infrastructural projects.
- 2.3 The projects in receipt of the DCSDC Access Programme for Cultural Venues awards were detailed within previous Cultural Grant Aid Reports approved by Members. The total value of the award secured from DfC to support the delivery of these projects is £111,640.
- 2.4 DfC also approved the business case proposals for the following key infrastructural projects which were deemed the most suitable access projects based on the wider need and priorities of the respective Culture department strategies. These are also projects with a suitable partner with the capability to deliver and who can provide impact for the wider sector.
- Installation of a new Changing Place Facility within Strabane Community Library (Award of £30,000)
 - Installation of a new Changing Place Facility within Artspace, Campsie (Award of £30,000)

- Increase accessibility through development of an interactive information portal to navigate a tour of the Derry Walls and meet recommendations from the accessibility audits in line with Management team for Derry Walls. (Award of £30,000)

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 The requirement for the installation of a Changing Place facilities within Strabane Community Library and Artspace, Campsie was not identified through the DCSDC Access Programme for Cultural Venues. Rather, the decision to compile and submit business cases for these project was based on securing an equitable geographical distribution of such facilities across the City and District.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement, Rural Needs and other Implications

- 4.1 The securing of DfC support will enable the DCSDC allocated Member approved Access Improvement Fund budgets to be extended to meet programme demands in 20/21.
- 4.2 The installation of the Changing Place facility within Strabane Community Library will require the repurposing of Room 1. Currently, DCSDC receives an annual income of approximately £3,400 from the rental of this space. Therefore the installation of this facility will result in potential lost income for this room.
- 4.3 Furthermore, with ongoing maintenance a requirement the proposed installation of a changing place facility within Strabane Community Library is subject to the final approval of Libraries NI.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 To accept the respective letters of offer from the Department of Communities and progress with project delviery.