Derry City & Strabane District Council Update

Jennifer O'Donnell

Tourism Manager

Derry City & Strabane District Council

TOURISM NORTHERN IRELAND

Derry City & Strabane
District Council

Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin

Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrìck Cooncil

DCSDC Access & Inclusion



Jennifer O Donnell,
Tourism Manager

Access & Inclusion Grant Aid Programme (2016–2025)

Aim – to improve Accessibility Across Arts & Cultural Venues

HSC Public Health Agency

Derry City & Strabane District Council
Comhairle Chathair Dhoire & Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Stràbane Destrick Cooncil

Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

45 Access Audits and **10 Audit Reviews** identified barriers and prioritised accessibility improvements across venues.

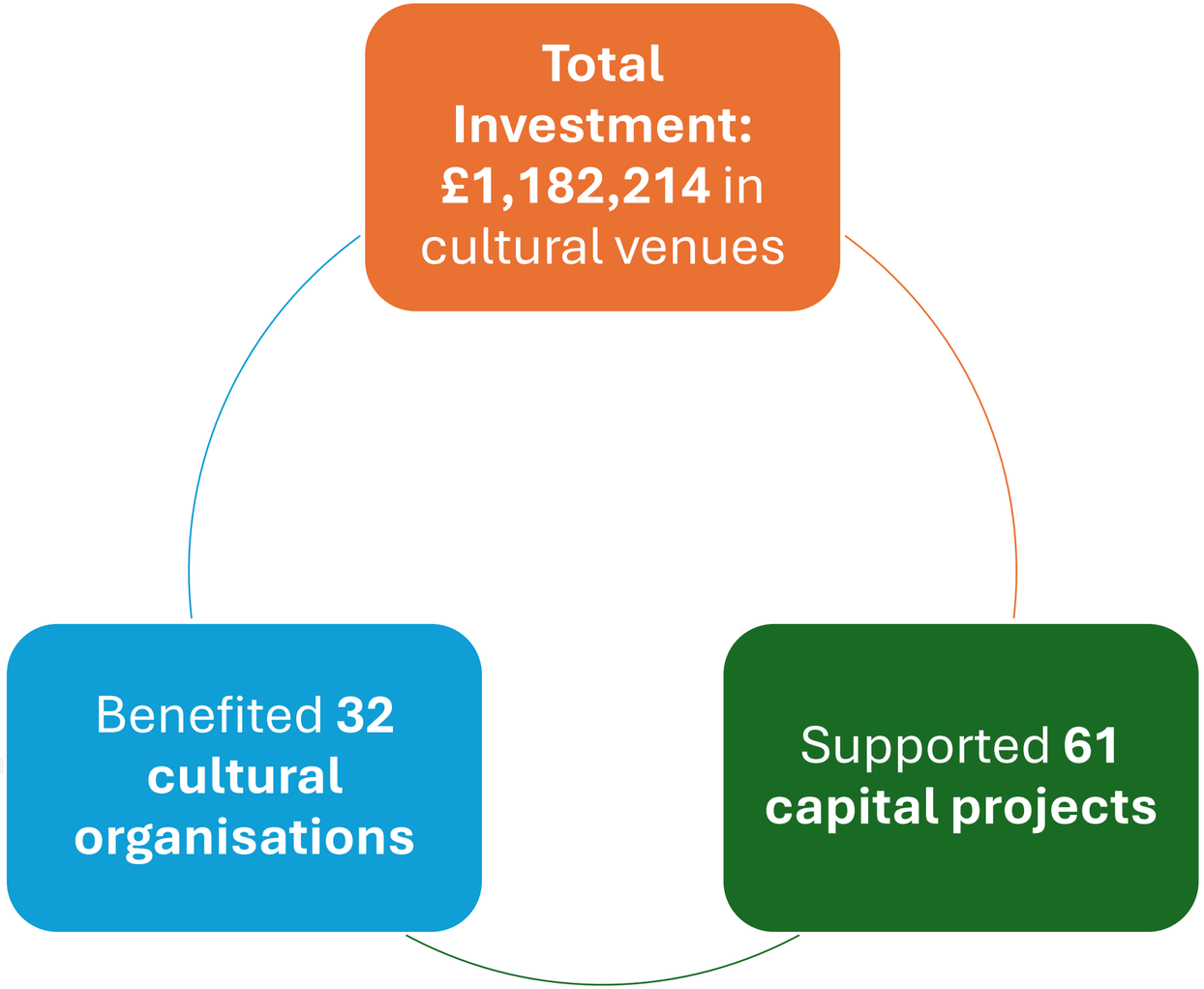
Initial investment of **£80,000 per year** ensured funding was targeted towards improvements identified through independent assessments.

Programme success helped shape a **regional funding model** later adopted by the Department for Communities.

Programme Impact (2016–2025)

Delivered improvements including:

- Ramps, lifts and automated doors
- Accessible toilets and changing facilities
- Improved wayfinding and venue layouts
- Accessible seating, staging and performance areas
- Hearing enhancement systems
- Enhanced signage and visual communication



Outcome: Created more accessible, inclusive and welcoming cultural spaces, supporting greater independence and participation for people with disabilities.

Case Studies – Accessibility in Action

Millennium Forum

£70,253 Invested

Changing Places Facility
Accessible entrance, incline lift & dressing room
Fully accessible website with enhanced navigation and accessibility features

Impact: Improved access for audiences, performers and visitors with disabilities.















St. Columb's Park House

£40,492 Invested

- Resurfaced pathways
- Accessible seating and improved signage
- Automated entrance doors

- **Impact:** Increased independence, mobility and ease of access for visitors with additional needs.



Building Capacity Through Training & Inclusion

Access & Inclusion Training Initiatives (2025–26)

Tour Guide Training

- Partnership between DCSDC, Tourism NI and NWRC
- Supported members of the **Foyle Deaf Association** to achieve the **OCN NI Level**

Disability Awareness Training

- Delivered with BIDs, Disability Action and the Public Health Agency
- Training provided to hospitality businesses in **Strabane and Derry**
- Over **50 participants** attended






HUB
BUD CLUB


JAM
Just a minute
Please be patient.
I have a learning
disability / difficulty
NOW
www.nowgroup.org
LOTTERY FUNDED


Foyle
Maritime
Festival
2026
Londonderry
Foyle
Maritime
Festival
2026


40th
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS
DERRY
HALLOWEEN
EUROPE'S LARGEST HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL
28th Oct to 1st Nov 2026
derryhalloween.com


CITY OF DERRY
JAZZ
& BIG BAND FESTIVAL
29th APRIL - 4th MAY
cityofderryjazzfestival.com
CHARLIE'S STINGERS
MUIREANN BRADLEY
LEE RICHARDSON
25
YEARS
60+ VENUES
200+ PERFORMERS
100,000 VISITORS

What’s Next?

Access & Inclusion Action Plan 2027 aims to reduce barriers for disabled people and create greater opportunities for participation across the Derry City and Strabane District.

1

🎭 **Increase Participation**
Enable greater access to arts, culture, tourism, events and community life.

2

🚪 **Remove Barriers**
Reduce physical, communication, social and economic barriers.

3

🤝 **Embed Inclusion**
Strengthen accessibility standards, best practice and partnership working.

4

📣 **Empower Voices**
Ensure disabled people shape decisions and drive continuous improvement.



Strategic Alignment
Supports the priorities and actions identified within the **Shaping our Tourism Future**, helping to create a district that is more accessible, inclusive and welcoming for all.


"The best destinations aren't those that simply attract visitors. They're the ones that make people feel welcome."