

The Market Yard	13th February 2018
To: The Leisure and Development Committee For Information	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council facilities
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager Head of Capital Works, Energy & Infrastructure
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the outcome of the recent funding application for the Market Yard and the proposed next steps.

Background

In September 2016 Council agreed to develop Market Yard as a multi-use space including a pay & display car park. It was agreed that Environmental Services would progress preparatory work within an estimated budget of £190,000 for the pay and display car park. It was further agreed that Leisure & Development Services would develop a proposal for the multi-use element of the site and bring a proposal with possible funding options back to Council for approval.

In March 2017 Council agreed to a proposed enhanced scheme providing more flexibility in the original layout to accommodate a wider range of small to medium scale events as well as the originally envisaged larger scale events. The enhanced scheme had an estimated capital investment of £300,000. An opportunity existed to seek funding from the Arts Council NI Local Government Challenge fund for the extra cost of the enhancement works.

Council agreed that an application for funding should be submitted and this was completed by 31st March 2017 with a decision expected in the following months. The maximum fund available was £150,000.

Outcome of the Application

In September 2017 notification was received from the Arts Council that the application for funding was unsuccessful on the grounds that the Arts Council had chosen not to fund major capital projects.

Referral back to the Environmental Services Committee

Due to the unsuccessful funding application and the inability to proceed with the enhanced scheme, the matter will now be referred to the Environmental Services Committee who will consider the original proposal within the context of the ongoing planning application process.