



Doncaster Council

Report

Date: 15-09-2020

To the Mayor and Member of Cabinet

DONCASTER CULTURE & LEISURE TRUST (DCLT) COVID-19 SUPPORT September 2020 – March 2021

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Cllr Ball	All	Yes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust consists of a group of companies including Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT), Doncaster Conferencing Catering and Events (DCCE) and Doncaster Performance Venue (DPV). The Trust provide leisure and cultural services for the public of Doncaster including leisure centres, CAST Theatre and their associated trading and charitable arms. Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust was established in 2011 through the amalgamation of the Dome Leisure Trust, Dearne Valley Leisure Trust and, at the time, DMBC's in house leisure facility provision.
2. The Trust has a combined turnover of £15.4m, including grants; and, in total, the combined group of companies attracts 2.6m attendances per year through its facilities. It provides a significant amount of physical activity and leisure provision for the population of the borough; employs 333 contracted staff; and supports and utilises numerous local suppliers, investing £2.5m per year into Doncaster's local economy and an additional £1.3m to the wider Yorkshire economy through its supply chain.
3. Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust is a key partner in the delivery of Get Doncaster Moving one of the boroughs key strategies designed to support the health and wellbeing of the public. In addition, DCLT leads on Doncaster Create, Right Up Our Street and the Doncaster Social Isolation Alliance.

4. The DCLT group generates the majority of its revenue through earned income (DCLT - 97.5%, DCCE - 100%, DPV - 65%). This makes the group extremely vulnerable to market forces and extreme trading conditions.
5. The emergence of COVID-19 has had a significant and very quick impact across the group. With the Government's announcements resulting in the closure of DCLT group of facilities by 18th March. The reduction in income from DCCE, CAST and immediate freezing of direct debit income across gym memberships and swimming lessons due to closures has put significant stress on the financial viability of the company. Resulting in Doncaster Council providing initial revenue package of up to £2.77m to support DCLT through to September 30th 2020.
6. A new model of support for DCLT was developed and from mid-March through April, May and June the Trust has been active in delivering and supporting the services of The Community Hub.
7. During this period, recovery planning has been undertaken and as we transition from response to recovery, the services previously delivered by the Trust are slowly opening in line with government advice, local planning, observing staff, and customer welfare
8. The Trust is adopting through a phased opening of activities and venues under the portfolio across a two-year period:
 - Phase 1, April 2020 – June 2020,
 - Phase 2 July 2020 – August 2020.
 - Phase 3 September 2020 – March 2021
 - Phase 4 April 2021 – August 2021,
 - Phase 5 September 2021 – March 2022.
9. As lockdown measures are released DCLT are opening facilities as allowed under the government's guidance. However, the measures having to be undertaken to provide a safe environment are and will have continue to significant impact on the ability of DCLT to generate income due to reduced capacity at venues and inability to open all services.

EXEMPT REPORT

10. This report is not exempt, however there are financial and commercially sensitive matters contained within the appendices to the report. Therefore, the appendix are NOT FOR PUBLICATION because they contain exempt information under paragraph 3, of part 1 of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972, as amended, (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. To provide a revenue package of up to £1.72m to support the Trust through to March 31st, 2021, while also mapping out and monitoring additional long-term support that may be required post March 2021 by DCLT for cabinets consideration.
12. To delegate to the Director of Corporate Resources to undertake a monthly review of DCLT's cash flow forecast and profit and Loss Accounts to determine the value and timing of payments within this overall sum.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

13. Supporting DCLT through COVID-19 and enabling its continued operation will allow the Trust to continue to deliver their key services to the people of Doncaster. These services positively impact a significant proportion of the population's health and wellbeing and form a strong part of the borough's identity. By supporting the Trust to continue to be a part of the fabric of Doncaster we are also ensuring it continues to play a role in the economic growth of the borough through its supply chain, work force, community engagement and strategic positioning.

BACKGROUND

14. Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust consists of a group of companies including Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust (DCLT), Doncaster Conferencing Catering and Events (DCCE) and Doncaster Performance Venue (DPV). The Trust provide leisure and cultural services for the public of Doncaster including leisure centres, CAST Theatre and their associated trading and charitable arms. Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust was established in 2011 through the amalgamation of the Dome Leisure Trust, Dearne Valley Leisure Trust and, at the time, DMBC's in house leisure facility provision.
15. It is worth noting that through innovation and growth the revenue subsidy from the Local Authority is £0.25m, one of the lowest subsidies for leisure in the United Kingdom. This has contributed towards the Council's savings targets since 2014-2015.
Neighbouring authorities still revenue fund leisure in excess of £1 million per annum:

Sheffield	£2.3 million
Rotherham	£1.1 million
Kirklees	£1.4 million
16. In addition, the Council has provided a £3.25m capital allocation over three years (2018 – 2021) for DCLT to maintain our leisure facilities; and an additional £0.33m (plus VAT) grant subsidy for CAST theatre.

17. The mix of facilities and departments include:

- 11 leisure facilities with a mix of pools, gyms and wider leisure/ sport offer
- Crookhill Golf Course
- Hatfield Outdoor Activity Centre
- CAST Theatre
- CAST events (trading arm for the theatre providing café, bar and conferencing)
- Doncaster Catering Conferencing and Events, managing all commercial activities and hospitality venues - including The Leopard, The Counting House and The Old Brewhouse
- Doncaster Education Knowledge and Skills Academy, providing educational services for schools for teaching outside of the classroom
- Doncaster Culture Hub

18. DCLT provide and lead on the following key commissioned delivery;

- Doncaster Creates. Key mechanism for Doncaster year of culture in 2021 delivering large-scale activity, raising ambitions by working alongside local artists.
The project has secured Arts Council match funding of £90k to deliver large scale urban art in the town supporting the regeneration of the gateway project. International renowned artists Nomad Clan have been commissioned and commencement of delivery is scheduled for September 2020. Through the lockdown period local artists were supported through digital activity and a recent open call has supported 14 local artists with grants to deliver community-based work. Additional urban art has been commissioned in consultation with the community for a regeneration project in Baxter Park, a town centre local authority park. Additionally, a national partnership with the Booker Prize is to take place later in 2020
- Social Isolation Alliance: Working with Doncaster communities and national agencies to reduce loneliness. DCLT lead the consortium and have established a hub and spoke model of delivery, bringing together anchor organisations such as Darts, Age UK and Befriend to establish core support to build capacity and release funding. A Programme Manager will be appointed in August 2020 to upscale this work. The Community Hub Helpline is operated by the Alliance and delivers services Monday to Sunday and is a vital link to the localities service in the local authority.
- Right Up Our Street (RUOS): Consortium led programme to increase participation in arts across Doncaster. Consortium lead for the project, RUOS has established 5 community Arts bases across Doncaster and has delivered key festivals such as The Light Festival, which in 2018 hosted the Moon in the Minster, bringing 16,000 participants into the town centre and gaining regional and national media coverage. The DN festival, hosted in the town centre also saw 6,000 people access a range of participatory art forms. This project is also supporting 8 local artists

through a research and development phase to bring to fruition their work

19. DCLT prudentially borrowed £2.8m from Doncaster Council in 2014 in order to improve the facilities at Adwick and Dearne Valley leisure centres. Successive loan repayments of £0.24m per year have been made since April 2015 and the venue now operates without a direct subsidy.
20. DCLT have attracted external funding to invest in their facilities including;
 - £0.3m for equipment from the Arts Council Fund to support CAST;
 - £0.665m from Big Lottery to build a residential block and outdoor climbing facility for Hatfield Outdoor Activity Centre;
 - Sport England Funding for a closed road cycle circuit at The Dome of £0.6m;
 - £0.25m also received from Local Sustainable Transport Fund.

It is to be noted that potential claims for repayment may be enacted by the funders should facilities be closed long-term or sold on at any point.

21. Pre Covid DCLT group generates the majority of its revenue through earned income per year:

	Income from customers		Grant income	
	%	£m	%	£m
DCLT	97.5%	9.82	2.5%	0.25
DCCE	100%	2.87	0%	0
DPV	65.5%	1.63	34.5%	0.86

22. This made the group extremely vulnerable to market forces and extreme trading conditions caused by the global pandemic. Following Government restrictions venues were closed, direct debit income frozen and whilst expenditure continued to be incurred
23. The DCLT family of companies has a contracted staff base of 333 staff. To ensure continuity throughout the pandemic and into recovery 43 members of staff were retained (12.9%) and 290 members of staff were furloughed. Other cost cutting measures allowed a reduction in cost of 46.6%. It is to be noted that there are a number of fixed costs which cannot be reduced, such as essential maintenance for Health and Safety and ongoing contractual arrangements that have to continue - particularly in regards to chemical and water testing. It is anticipated that these costs will be further reduced as social isolation measure are lifted and income streams start to be generated.
24. The measures identified above have reduced the group of companies' costs but the lack of income means losses of £2.77m were expected to be incurred from March to September 2020. Cash flow forecasts showed that the companies would run out of cash and be unable to pay staff and suppliers from early May 2020. It was therefore agreed through approval that Doncaster Council provide financial support to the group of up to £2.77m for the period of March – September 2020. However monthly losses are slightly lower as gradually able to reopen facilities and therefore income gradually rising - albeit offset to an extent by the closure of the HMRC job retention scheme. Income and expenditure forecasts up to the end of March 2021 show a further £1.72m of financial support is needed. Further review of the period after March is

needed but it is expected that the position will gradually improve.

25. DCLT during the period of lockdown and as restriction are lifted have reviewed operations and as and when possible opened Facilities within its group of companies. A strategic phased approach has been taken to opening of facilities as outlined in appendices. Currently the following sites as of the 1st August 2020 have opened.
 - Dome, Adwick, Dearne Valley, Balby Gyms
 - Dome, Adwick, Dearne Valley, Thorne, Armthorpe Pools
 - Crookhill Park Golf Course
 - Hatfield Outdoor Activity Centre, Camping and Water Sports
 - The Old Brew House, The Counting House, Leopard catering and bar
 - Dome Cycle Track
26. These sites have carefully opened following all Government guidance and requirements. This has a significant impact on capacity at each of the sites For example; the Dome gym has capacity for 330 people but under the new guidance, will only accommodate 90 people. Adwick pool will only have maximum capacity for 36 people in each hour slot. Attendance to the venues is being closely monitored with initial occupancy for gym usage being 47% and pools being 32%.
27. Cast (DPV) has remained closed with some remote community and participation work continuing. They have provided vital digital community content and are a key partner for the Expect Staycation programme. On the 30th July the decision was made to cancel pantomime and all other shows are currently cancelled or suspended, as government guidance does not allow opening. The model the organisation is working towards assumed that the building does not open to the general public for live performances until the new financial year at minimum. There may be opportunity to deliver test events by working with national organisations but there is minimal associated income for this activity. While Cast will endeavour to access ACE emergency funding there is no expectation within the required ask for the venue. Overheads are calculated based on the above assumptions. It is projected that an additional £161,778 will be required for the venue to be maintained to March 2021.
28. The group of companies have maximised opportunity to develop income streams while at the same time reducing overheads. DPV have been successful in accessing £54k emergency support from the arts council and will be making submission to DCMS Culture Recovery Fund. The parent company is also lobbying government for financial support for the industry under the Community Leisure banner, #saveleisure
29. Given the fluidity of financial transactions within DCLT and changes in Government Guidance during lock down, monthly reviews are being undertaken to scrutinise business assumptions, cash flow forecast and review of the profit and loss account. These reviews are enabling payments of the initial £2.77m and proposed £1.72m to be made based on up to date financial information.

30. At this moment in time the Government, despite the sector facing very challenging circumstances, has established no similar fund to support the Leisure Sector. The leisure sector and its partners are lobbying hard for a fund to be established.
31. However, it is recognised that significant changes have and will need to be made to the operation to ensure the viability of DCLT group of companies. Regrettably, this has meant that all Casual staff across the group will be released as the furlough scheme changes at the end of August. In addition, the company has started consultation on a redundancy programme. The aim of the programme is a saving of £1.08 million per annum on salary costs
32. The leisure and sports industry is facing similar financial challenges to other industries with an estimated closure of 1300 gyms with a loss of in excess of 58,000 jobs across leisure and gym workforce. This does not include loss of jobs in services outside of these facilities such as the coaching and physical activity industry. This uncertain landscape and challenge has guided our request in this report to put in measures to continually review the position of the Trust and report back as and when required.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

33. Option 1 - To provide supportive measures for DCLT to ensure its continued viability.
34. Option 2 - Not to provide supportive measures for DCLT resulting in bankruptcy of the company. This could potentially lead to loss of workforce and closure of all facilities resulting in non-payment of staff and suppliers and potential claw back from funding bodies. For certain, it would mean the transfer of the majority of services and facilities back to DMBC. This would put significant strain on the Council due to the management requirements, TUPE 'ing' of staff and associated costs of operating the services and facilities. If the staff were TUPE'd it is unlikely that the Council would be able to claim salary costs back from HMRC.

Option 1 is recommended.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

35. It is recommended that financial support is provided to ensure continued viability of Doncaster Culture and Leisure Trust resulting in retention of staff, operational facilities and maintain physical activity and leisure offer to the public across the borough. Providing much needed recreational activities that will greatly support both the physical and mental wellbeing of the population through recovery and into the future.
36. Leisure centres, swimming pools and community services play a vital role in society. latest figures from 4global via data hub research indicate that public leisure provision contributes £3.8bn in social value to the UK (England, Scotland and Wales) every year, measured through savings to the NHS as well as improved mental and physical health.

Providing services in the UK's most deprived areas, public leisure facilities are a critical support for people from lower socio-economic groups who are 18 per cent less likely to be active than their more affluent counterparts.

37. As charities, public leisure facilities offer physical activity to vulnerable and under-represented groups through targeted programmes (e.g. for older adults, individuals with long-term health conditions, disabled people, individuals struggling with their mental health) and reduced membership schemes for people from low-socio economic groups. Vulnerable groups are 18% less likely to be active than those from more affluent groups
38. Recent obesity strategy launched by the Government has identified that the ability to take part in and access physical activity measure is essential to the both reducing the prevalence of obesity but also as a key measure to reduce severity and the impact of Covid should you catch the virus

Public leisure facilities should be a key partner in achieving the government's target of reducing obesity, managing diabetes, and improving the nation's health to limit the impact of a potential second wave of Covid-19:

- The UK has one of the highest rates of obesity in the world with one third of children and two-thirds of adults overweight
 - University of Liverpool research shows that being obese increase the risk of dying from Covid-19 by 38%
 - 75% of people who have been hospitalised with Covid-19 were overweight or obese
 - Leisure centres provide weight management and GP referral schemes
 - Promoting an active lifestyle is a key intervention to counteract the effects of social isolation, especially in older adults and other at-risk individuals, such as those living with chronic diseases associated with ageing and lifestyle.
 - Leisure facilities play a crucial role in the NHS' plan to build infrastructure for social prescribing in primary care
39. In addition, the continued viability of DCLT would prevent the significant strain that would be placed on the Council if the services and facilities were required to be transferred back.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

	Outcomes	Implications
	<p>Doncaster Working: Our vision is for more people to be able to pursue their ambitions through work that gives them and Doncaster a brighter and prosperous future;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access to good fulfilling work • Doncaster businesses are supported to flourish • Inward Investment 	<p>DCLT provide the key cultural offer for the borough which is identified by investors as a key measure for investment.</p> <p>Not to provide support will force DCLT to cease operating. In doing so, the result would place significant strain on DMBC as management responsibility would fall to DMBC, the majority of the 333 staff would be TUPE'd and all associated costs transferred to DMBC.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Living: Our vision is for Doncaster's people to live in a borough that is vibrant and full of opportunity, where people enjoy spending time;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town centres are the beating heart of Doncaster • More people can live in a good quality, affordable home • Healthy and Vibrant Communities through Physical Activity and Sport • Everyone takes responsibility for keeping Doncaster Clean • Building on our cultural, artistic and sporting heritage 	<p>DCLT attracts 2.6m attendances to its facilities being by far the largest single provider of physical activity and sport provision across the borough. As described above in the 'Doncaster Working' section, if DCLT cease to operate, significant strain will be placed on DMBC as operating responsibility is transferred. The re-tendering of the portfolio would require significant resource and carries a risk of being unsuccessful. In the long term these factors could drastically increase the risk of these facilities and services remaining viable and could lead to closure. Loss of these facilities and services would negatively impact levels of activity and associated benefits to health & wellbeing.</p> <p>For the same reasons, there is the potential that a large section of our cultural and sporting heritage could be lost in the long term – this having the potential to be significantly damaging for current and future generations.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Learning: Our vision is for</p>	<p>DCLT has a well-established</p>

	<p>learning that prepares all children, young people and adults for a life that is fulfilling;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every child has life-changing learning experiences within and beyond school • Many more great teachers work in Doncaster Schools that are good or better • Learning in Doncaster prepares young people for the world of work 	<p>and respected education arm supporting those who are most vulnerable in the education system and are not part of the mainstream offer. Potential transfer of the service to DMBC as a result of DCLT ceasing to operate would place significant strain on DMBC. Additionally, in the long term this is likely to increase the risk of losing this service; meaning young people across the borough would be less likely / able to access alternative education routes.</p>
	<p>Doncaster Caring: Our vision is for a borough that cares together for its most vulnerable residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children have the best start in life • Vulnerable families and individuals have support from someone they trust • Older people can live well and independently in their own homes 	<p>DCLT have been awarded the contract to lead on the social isolation consortium. This would stall and require re tender impacting on service delivery and the existing work.</p>
	<p>Connected Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A modern, efficient, and flexible workforce • Modern, accessible customer interactions • Operating within our resources and delivering value for money • A co-ordinated, whole person, whole life focus on the needs and aspirations of residents • Building community resilience and self-reliance by connecting community assets and strengths • Working with our partners and residents to provide effective leadership and governance 	<p>DCLT have played a key role as a strong partner and valuable resource. Leadership have remodelled the service to deliver council reductions in funding through innovative business planning, while ensuring community cohesion and facilities remain. Operating on a regional and national platform with key strategic partners in the work streams of the Trust. The loss of the company would be significant.</p>

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

40. A detailed risk assessment has been undertaken and without intervention there is a very likely and critical risk that DCLT will cease to trade resulting in the transfer of provision, placing significant strain on DMBC. This strain would be associated with the additional resource required to manage the facilities and services, staff TUPE and all other associated costs.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS (ND 17/08/20)

41. The Council may use its power under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, which provides the Council with the general power of competence, allowing them to do anything which a person, may generally do.
42. S111 Local Government Act 1972 states that a local authority shall have power to do anything (whether or not involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions.
43. In accordance with Section 19(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 “A local authority may provide, inside or outside its area, such recreational facilities as it thinks fit...” Section 19(3) further provides that “A local authority may contribute—
 - (a) by way of grant or loan towards the expenses incurred or to be incurred by any voluntary organisation in providing any recreational facilities which the authority has power to provide by virtue of subsection (1) of this section”

In this statute “voluntary organisation” means any person carrying on or proposing to carry on an undertaking otherwise than for profit, which would include DCLT.
44. As set out within the body of the report, the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak have resulted in a significant loss of income for DCLT and has put a significant stress on the financial viability of the company. DCLT manage the Council’s leisure facilities in accordance with both the 2011 Concession Agreement and a number of leases of individual leisure facility buildings. In the event that DCLT cease to operate, the leased leisure facilities will revert to the Council together with any costs and liabilities (many DCLT staff would most likely transfer to the Council via TUPE). In that alternative scenario, the Council will face additional costs and challenges and as a result, the proposal to provide this additional funding is a reasonable decision as the alternative scenarios will result in additional costs to the Council and/or loss of vital services to the public.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (MS, 06/08/20)

45. It is proposed that the Council provides up to £1.72m in funding to DCLT to ensure that DCLT continues to operate from October 2020 to March 2021. During that period, the Council's Director of Corporate Resources will undertake a monthly review of DCLT's cash flow forecast and profit and loss accounts to determine the value and timing of payments within this overall sum.
46. The provision of the £1.72m of funding should be made with reference to Financial Procedure Rules E.15 to E.18 covering the requirements that need to be in place before providing assistance to external bodies.
47. The alternative to providing the funding is that DCLT would cease to trade and the facilities and staff would transfer to the Council. This would result, in particular, in extra staff costs for the Council as DCLT is eligible to claim for reimbursement of staff costs through HMRC's job retention scheme but, as a public body, the Council is not.
48. The government has so far provided £21.8m of grant funding to support the Council's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It is currently estimated that there will be a shortfall between the grant provided and the additional costs and reductions in income caused by Covid-19. It is anticipated that the government will provide further funding to enable that shortfall to be bridged. Should that not be the case, the Council will look to identify funding to meet the shortfall which will include reviewing unallocated and earmarked reserves, corporately held contingency budgets, in-year savings and potential savings in future years through a refresh of the Council's medium-term financial strategy. The Council's Chief Financial Officer is confident that through a combination of these measures the cost of this decision can be managed.

HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (RH 18/08/20)

50. There are no immediate HR imps identified within this report, however, should the support not be provided further advice should be sought.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLICATIONS (ET 14/08/20)

51. There are no direct technology implications relating to the recommendations in this report.

HEALTH IMPLICATIONS (KH 14/08/20)

52. DCLT operate a portfolio of leisure facilities which provide a significant opportunity for our residents to be physically active, in addition to delivering a portfolio wider health promoting work.
53. Low levels of physical activity can have a negative impact on both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Leisure centres play an important role in promoting the health of local people by providing a space and the support for people to be physically active. Providing access to leisure and sports facilities for local residents can also have much wider impacts than simply providing a space for physical activity; they also provide opportunities for socialising, cultural and family activity and learning. They can also be a focal point for the community and a host for a range of health and social services and activities. In addition to

providing leisure facilities, DCLT also deliver a range of interventions and services that work in partnership to improve wider health and wellbeing, and improve access to alternative education, training, culture and the arts in Doncaster.

54. In Doncaster, 29.2% of our adult population is inactive (PHE, 2017/18), this is higher than the national average. There are clear health inequalities in relation to inactivity; the older you are the more likely you are to be inactive and those on low incomes and low budgets are also more likely to be inactive. Doncaster residents also face a range of challenges in relation to educational attainment, income and health status.
55. In order to ensure that everyone in the community has access, it is essential that leisure facilities are accessible and affordable. The loss of the DCLT Trust may mean that members of the community who would normally use their leisure facilities to improve their health, access a range of services and activities and socialise will no longer be able to do so.
56. In addition to providing local facilities, activities and services, DCLT supports the local economy by employing staff and procuring goods and services. A thriving local economy is key to health and wellbeing as it supports local business and provides employment for local people.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS (AM, 06/08/20)

57. While the majority of services and facilities would initially transfer back to DMBC, there is a significant risk that if DCLT were forced to cease operating the added strain placed on DMBC would result in the services and facilities ceasing to be provided. It could be reasonably expected that without the facilities, programmes and activities provided by DCLT, some groups with protected characteristics could be adversely impacted and be at a disadvantage. These could include older people and children, people on a low income (considered under Due Regard in Doncaster), and people with disabilities/long term conditions.
58. There are clear inequalities in relation to inactivity in Doncaster; the older you are the more likely you are to be inactive, those on low incomes and low budgets are also more likely to be inactive. Nationally, disabled people, people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity backgrounds and people with long-term conditions are also generally less likely to be active. Doncaster residents also face a range of challenges in relation to educational attainment, income and health status, and for those groups with protected characteristics, for example people from minority ethnic backgrounds and those with disabilities, these barriers and challenges can be even greater.
59. Providing affordable and accessible physical and cultural activity can enable those in the population who might usually be excluded to benefit from opportunities to improve their health and socialise. This is particularly pertinent for those groups who would not normally be able to benefit from activities where cost and travel would be a barrier. A number DCLT's facilities are based in, or close to some of the most deprived areas in Doncaster where many of the residents' experience income and health inequalities and are more likely to have disabilities and long term conditions. In addition to the provision of facilities and activities, DCLT also delivers a range of socially focussed projects that aim to tackle inequalities for vulnerable groups, for example, educational outreach

projects for vulnerable students, a community led arts programme aiming to encourage participation and the Social Isolation Alliance.

CONSULTATION

60. Senior Leadership, DCLT and the Finance Departments have been consulted with during completion of this report.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DCLT – Doncaster Culture & Leisure Trust
DCCE – Doncaster Conferencing, Catering & Events
DPV – Doncaster Performance Venue
DMBC – Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

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