



**CABINET**

This meeting will be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website.

Please also note that under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting. The use of any images or sound recordings is not under the Council's control.

To: Councillors Bailey, Barkley (Deputy Leader), Bokor, Harper-Davies, Mercer, Morgan (Leader), Poland, Rattray and Rollings (for attention)

All other members of the Council  
(for information)

You are requested to attend the meeting of the Cabinet to be held in Committee Room 1, at the Council Offices, Southfields, Loughborough on Thursday, 17th November 2022 at 6.00 pm for the following business.

Chief Executive

Southfields  
Loughborough

4th November 2022

**AGENDA**

1. APOLOGIES
2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

For information, disclosable pecuniary interests and registrable interests relate to entries that are included, or should be included, on a councillor's register of interests. Non-registrable interests relate to any other matters.

- |    |  |         |
|----|--|---------|
| 3. | <u>LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>  |         |
| 4. | <u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</u>   | 3 - 10  |
|    | To approve the minutes of the previous meeting.  |         |
| 5. | <u>QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7</u>  |         |
|    | The deadline for questions is noon on Monday, 7th November 2022.                                 |         |
| 6. | <u>CHARNWOOD GRANTS</u>  | 11 - 51 |
|    | A report of the Director Housing and Wellbeing.  |         |
|    | <i>Key Decision</i>  |         |
| 7. | <u>AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT</u>                                    | 52 - 56 |
|    | A report of the Director Commercial and Economic Development.                                    |         |
|    | <i>Key Decision</i>  |         |
| 8. | <u>TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY, ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY AND MRP POLICY - MID YEAR REVIEW</u> | 57 - 74 |
|    | A report of the Head of Finance, for recommendation to Council.                                  |         |

## CABINET 13TH OCTOBER 2022

PRESENT: The Leader (Councillor Morgan)  
The Deputy Leader (Councillor Barkley)  
Councillors Bailey, Harper-Davies, Rattray and  
Rollings

Councillor Brookes  
Councillor Seaton

Chief Executive  
Director Finance, Governance and Contracts  
Democratic Services Manager  
Director Commercial and Economic Development  
Head of Regulatory and Community Safety  
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mercer

Councillors Bokor and Poland attended this meeting virtually, see notes at end of minutes.

The Leader stated that this meeting would be recorded and the sound recording subsequently made available via the Council's website. He also advised that, under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, other people may film, record, tweet or blog from this meeting, and the use of any such images or sound recordings was not under the Council's control.

23. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTERESTS, AND OTHER REGISTRABLE AND NON-REGISTRABLE INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

24. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

26. QUESTIONS UNDER CABINET PROCEDURE 10.7

No questions had been submitted.

27. DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SCRUTINY PANEL

Considered, a report of the Head of Governance and Human Resources to consider the recommendations and observations of the Digital Transformation Scrutiny Panel (item 6 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Brookes, Chair of the Digital Transformation Scrutiny Panel, presented the recommendations and observations of the Panel. In concluding the item, he wished for the record to thank officers for both their time and outstanding work in this area.

The Digital Transformation Scrutiny Panel was thanked for its scrutiny of the matter.

## **RESOLVED**

1. that, in respect of Panel recommendation 1, members are invited to be involved in the testing and feedback stage of the development and implementation of the new website;
2. that, in respect of Panel recommendation 2, members are offered and encouraged to participate in the Digital Champions initiative to enable the further development of their digital skills further as required allowing greater support to residents;
3. that, in respect of Panel recommendation 3, members be offered further digital skills training to increase awareness and confidence in the use and services available on line to the Council's customers;
4. that four observations of the Panel set out in the report be noted.

### Reason

- 1-4. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Digital Transformation Scrutiny Panel and to ensure implementation of scrutiny recommendations where agreed by the Cabinet.

*Councillors Bokor and Poland, attending virtually, confirmed that they would have voted in favour of the above decision had they been physically present at the meeting and able to do so.*

## 28. SOLAR FEASIBILITY FUNDING UPDATE

Considered, a report of the Director Commercial and Economic Development seeking approval for the budget initially agreed for Solar Feasibility to be expanded in its scope to include feasibility work for any measure to reduce or offset carbon (item 7 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Seaton, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, presented a report setting out the Commission's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Director Commercial and Economic Development assisted with consideration of the report.

The view was expressed that it would be useful for all members to be kept updated on the Council's progress regarding carbon reduction.

## **RESOLVED**

1. that wider use of the £150,000 budget allocated for solar feasibility studies to undertake wider carbon reduction/offsetting feasibility studies be approved;
2. that authority for the same be delegated to the Director Commercial and Economic Development to commission work;
3. that the report of the Scrutiny Commission be noted.

## Reasons

1. To understand the Council's options and ability to significantly reduce carbon emissions in the move to net zero.
2. To allow for the timely completion of studies such that that any following phases of a project can be planned and submitted for scrutiny and approval.
3. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Scrutiny Commission.

*Councillors Bokor and Poland, attending virtually, confirmed that they would have voted in favour of the above decision had they been physically present at the meeting and able to do so.*

## 29. COST OF LIVING - SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES AND BUSINESSES

Considered, a report of the Chief Executive outlining the support the Council had put in place regarding the cost of living crisis and requesting financial resources to provide enhanced support to residents and businesses, together with a supplementary report of the Chief Executive setting out Council's consideration on 5th September 2022 of a Position Statement regarding the cost of living which had been referred to the Cabinet (item 8 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Seaton, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, presented a report setting out the Commission's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes).

The Chief Executive and the Director Finance, Governance and Contracts assisted with consideration of the report and supplementary report.

The view was expressed that the generic wording on Council Tax reminder letters was quite harsh and that consideration should be given as to whether that could be softened, being mindful of the current financial climate. This might also apply to other

payment reminder letters sent out by the Council. Also suggested, that a debt advice leaflet be included with such letters. In response, the Chief Executive would look into the suggestions, highlighting that a balance was needed between ensuring that the wording did not cause distress, but was sufficiently firm to ensure payments were collected and legal process was met. The Council would seek to provide support where possible and the importance of early engagement by all sides was noted.

It was suggested that the Council could partner with additional campaigns to add to its support of local businesses throughout Charnwood. The Chief Executive would discuss this with Councillor Rattray following the meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

1. that the release of £180,000 from the Reinvestment Reserve for internal and voluntary sector use to assist communities with the cost of living crisis be approved;
2. that delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive for the distribution of these funds. The submitted report set out an indicative spend plan;
3. that any funds unspent at 31 March 2023 are returned to the Reinvestment Reserve;
4. that it be noted that the Cabinet confirmed the above to be an appropriate response to the Position Statement referred to it by Council;
5. that the report of the Scrutiny Commission be noted.

## Reasons

1. To provide support to communities and businesses with the cost of living crisis through a range of mechanisms.
2. There is a project team led by the Chief Executive and comprising of officers from across the Council who will develop a comprehensive spend plan outlining where the support will be allocated.
3. To ensure that financial resources are not unnecessarily earmarked and hence unavailable for alternate uses.
4. To acknowledge the Position Statement, its referral from Council and the response to it.
5. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Scrutiny Commission.

*Councillors Bokor and Poland, attending virtually, confirmed that they would have voted in favour of the above decision had they been physically present at the meeting and able to do so.*

30. CHARNWOOD DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2023

Considered, a report of the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety seeking approval of the Notice of Intention and upon expiry of the 28-day notice period to approve the Public Spaces Protection Order (Charnwood Borough Council) Control of Dogs 2023 under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (item 9 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

Councillor Seaton, Chair of the Scrutiny Commission, presented a report setting out the Commission's pre-decision scrutiny of the matter and recommendation (copy filed with these minutes). In response to a question, she confirmed that the Commission had considered Option 1 in recommendation 1 to be the most appropriate course of action.

The Scrutiny Commission was thanked for its pre-decision scrutiny of this item and items earlier in the meeting.

The Head of Regulatory and Community Safety assisted with consideration of the report.

**RESOLVED**

1. that the following option be included in the Notice of Intention for Stonebow Washlands, Loughborough:

Option 1 - to maintain the existing restriction of dogs on leads by direction on the playing fields (yellow zone on the map shown in Appendix C to the report);

2. that the Notice of Intention, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved and issued once the schedule of areas is amended to reflect the Cabinet decision in resolution 1 above;
3. that if there are no objections the draft Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO'), attached at Appendix B to the report, be approved as drafted after the expiry of the 28 days' notice period;
4. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to amend and make the Order if there are only minor alterations required;
5. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to make revisions and amendments to the Order in response to future requests for additional dog controls (for requests which cover no more than one ward);
6. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to extend the Order if there are no major changes required to the Order at the renewal time (January 2026);

7. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to authorise staff at Parish/Town Councils or other organisations, as deemed appropriate, to issue fixed penalty notices for dog control offences;
8. that the report of the Scrutiny Commission be noted.

#### Reasons

1. To enable Cabinet to decide on the preferred option whether to maintain or extend the current restrictions after considering the evidence, as detailed in the background papers, put forward during the consultation period and specifically regarding Stonebow Washlands, Loughborough.
2. To inform the public about the content of the proposed PSPO and give a formal opportunity for them to raise comments.
3. To vary and extend the PSPO under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, to address anti-social behaviour issues relating to dog control and to ensure the law-abiding majority can use and enjoy public spaces.
- 4&5. To enable relevant revisions to the PSPO subject to evidence of dog control issues in an area (revisions impacting on more than one ward will require Cabinet approval).
6. To enable renewal of the PSPO if there are no major changes required.
7. To assist Town/Parish Councils and other suitable organisations in the ability to offer an enhanced enforcement service in addition to the provision from the Council.
8. To acknowledge the work undertaken by and the views of the Scrutiny Commission.

*Councillors Bokor and Poland, attending virtually, confirmed that they would have voted in favour of the above decision had they been physically present at the meeting and able to do so.*

31. BRADGATE PARK DOG CONTROL PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER 2023

Considered, a report of the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety seeking approval of the Notice of Intention and upon expiry of the 28-day notice period to approve the Public Spaces Protection Order (Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood) Control of Dogs 2023 under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (item 10 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Head of Regulatory and Community Safety assisted with consideration of the report.



## RESOLVED

1. that the Notice of Intention, attached at Appendix A to the report, be approved and issued;
2. that, if there are no objections, the draft Public Spaces Protection Order ('PSPO'), attached at Appendix B to the report, be made as drafted after the expiry of the 28 days' notice period;
3. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to amend and make the Order if there are only minor alterations required;
4. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to make revisions and amendments to the Order in response to future requests for additional dog controls at Bradgate Park Estate and that the Constitution be amended accordingly;
5. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to renew the Order if there are no major changes required to the Order at the renewal time (January 2026) and that the Constitution be amended accordingly;
6. that the Head of Regulatory and Community Safety, in consultation with the Lead Member for Business Support, be given delegated authority to authorise staff employed by Bradgate Park Estate to issue fixed penalty notices for dog control offences.

### Reasons

1. To inform the public about the principles of the proposed PSPO and give a formal opportunity for them to raise objections and make comments.
- 2.&3. To make the PSPO under the provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, to address anti-social behaviour issues relating to dog control.
4. To enable relevant revisions of the PSPO subject to evidence of dog control issues.
5. To enable renewal of the PSPO if there are no major changes required.
6. To authorise officers of Bradgate Park Estate so they can provide dog control enforcement across Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood.

*Councillors Bokor and Poland, attending virtually, confirmed that they would have voted in favour of the above decision had they been physically present at the meeting and able to do so.*

### 32. URGENT DECISION TAKEN - COUNCIL TAX ENERGY REBATE SCHEME

Considered, a report of the Chief Executive setting out an action taken by the Head of Customer Services under urgency provisions (item 11 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

The Democratic Services Manager assisted with consideration of the report.

**RESOLVED** that the action taken be the Head of Customer Services under urgency provisions, as set out in the report, be noted.

#### Reason

To ensure that the action has been reported to the Cabinet in accordance with the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

*Councillors Bokor and Poland, attending virtually, confirmed that they would have voted in favour of the above decision had they been physically present at the meeting and able to do so.*

#### NOTES:

1. Councillors Bokor and Poland attended this meeting virtually. Decisions were taken only by Cabinet members physically present at the meeting.
2. Councillor Seaton attended this meeting virtually. She was not taking decisions.
3. The following officers listed as present attended this meeting virtually: Chief Executive, Director Commercial and Economic Development, Democratic Services Manager. The remaining officers listed as present attended in person.
4. The Democratic Services Manager attended this meeting in her role as Deputy Monitoring Officer.
5. The decisions in these minutes not in the form of recommendations to Council will come into effect at noon on Friday, 21st October 2022 unless called in under Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rule 11.7. Decisions in the form of recommendations to Council are not subject to call in.
6. No reference may be made to these minutes at the next available Ordinary Council meeting unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on Friday, 21st October 2022.
7. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Cabinet.

## CABINET – 17TH NOVEMBER 2022

### Report of the Director of Housing and Wellbeing

**Lead Member: Councillor Leigh Harper-Davies**

#### Part A

#### CHARNWOOD GRANTS – ROUND TWO 2022/2023 CHARNWOOD COMMUNITY AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS

##### Purpose of Report

To enable Cabinet to consider applications received for funding in round two of the Community Facilities and Community Grants schemes for 2022/23.

##### Recommendations

1. That the following Community Grants be awarded:
  - £5,000 to Passion towards a drop-in and other activities;
  - £3,248 to Quetzal towards counselling sessions;
  - £3,000 to Falcon Support Services towards a drop-in service (and refer the balance requested for consideration in Cost of Living fund);
  - £2,000 to MADS Group towards running costs and activities;
  - £2,000 to Artspace Loughborough towards Into the Outwoods Tree People Trail 2023;
  - £2,500 to Shepshed Dolphins Swimming Group towards pool hire costs;
  - £1,000 to Menphys towards Charnwood Mini Menphys;
  - £2,550 to Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland towards the Charnwood Men and Women in Sheds project;
  - £1,652 to Second Time Around CIC towards Second Time Around Re-launch;
  - £2,000 to Sacred Heart Church Loughborough towards a warm hubs project, with the balance to be considered for support through the Cost of Living fund;
  - £500 to Thurcaston and Cropston Gardening Club towards the Thurcaston and Cropston Annual Craft and Produce Show 2023;
  - £1,500 to The Coffee Shop – Birstall Methodist Church towards a warm spaces project, with the balance to be considered for support through the Cost of Living fund;

2. That the following Community Grant applications be declined:

- Upstarts Gymnastics Club - £4,000 requested – applied for funding towards gym raised pits with soft landing areas;
- New Life Community Church - £2,000 requested – applied for funding towards a family worker to support foodbank clients, with the application to be considered for support through the in Cost of Living fund;
- Nanpantan Ward Residents Group - £560 requested – applied for funding towards running costs and the maintenance and enhancement of rose-beds;
- Steps Conductive Education Centre - £5,000 requested – applied for funding towards Centre Manager Salary;
- Act One Youth Theatre - £3,000 requested – applied for funding towards a Musical Show in 2023;
- Mind For You Ltd - £4,960 requested – applied for funding towards a dementia activity directory;
- Loughborough Town Cricket Club - £1,500 requested – applied for funding towards core running costs and utilities, with the application to be considered for support through the Cost of Living fund;
- The Mason Foundation - £3,000 requested – applied for funding towards “The Community Mile” project;
- Twenty Twenty - £5,000 requested – applied for funding towards the Love4Life project.

3. That the following Community Facilities Grants be awarded:

- Up to £15,000 to Loughborough Generator towards building work and a ventilation system for the Loughborough Generator Project;
- Up to £3,917 to 1<sup>st</sup> Mountsorrel Scout Group towards a kitchen refurbishment;
- Up to £14,900 to King George’s Field Charity towards an annexe replacement kitchen.

4. That the Director of Housing and Wellbeing be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the awarded Community Grants.

### Reasons

1. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Grants scheme.

2. To decline to provide financial support to organisations which do not meet the criteria for the award of a grant under the Community Grant scheme.
3. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Facilities Grants scheme.
4. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the project.

### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Council's Corporate Strategy 2020-2024 makes a commitment to deliver high quality living with a range of services to meet the needs of our diverse community. It makes a commitment to support our communities by delivering a range of services which not only help residents, but also empowers them to make a positive difference in their local areas and that community cohesion will remain a priority. In addition, it wants residents to live healthy and active lifestyles and to offer services to improve wellbeing, either directly or with our partners.

At its meeting on 11th March 2021, Cabinet agreed the revised Charnwood Community Grants, Community Facilities and Member Grants schemes following the 2021/22 budgets for the grants schemes being agreed at Cabinet on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The previous grants schemes (Community Development and Engagement, Loughborough grants and the Sports grants) were reviewed and changes made, resulting in a proposed new combined grants scheme called Charnwood Community Grants. The Community Facilities Grant scheme was revised, removing the Feasibility study and small environmental project elements, and allowing for the inclusion of certain sports related projects.

At its meeting on 13th October 2022, Cabinet agreed to use £180,000 for internal and voluntary sector use to assist communities with the cost of living crisis. Some of the applications received for this round of Community Grants directly address this issue and will be considered for funding from this resource.

### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Community Facilities Grants and Community Grants considered in this report will be released, providing they are approved, once the applicants have met any required pre-payment grant conditions. Grant payment terms will be on a grant by grant basis, depending on the nature of the organisation / project and level of grant awarded. Payment may be made in stages, and copy invoices, or proof of project expenditure, requested.

### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

### Financial Implications

#### *Community Facilities Grant Funding*

The Community Facilities Grants budget allocated in the 2020-2023 Capital Plan was £190,000. The opening balance for Round Two 2022/23 was £92,371. Three applications were received for funding in Round Two 2022/23 (one of which had been deferred from Round Three in 2021/22), and three grants are recommended to be awarded by the grants panel at a total of up to £33,817, and therefore the balance remaining for future rounds of the Community Facilities Grants scheme is £58,554.

*Community Grant Funding*

The 2022/23 budget for Community Grants is £50,000.

Twelve applications were supported through the Community Grants scheme in Round One totalling £23,050, leaving a balance of £26,950 for further rounds, of which £7,650 is ringfenced for Loughborough projects. Twenty-two applications were received for funding in Round Two 2022/23. One application was ineligible for funding and has not been submitted to Cabinet for consideration. This report recommends that twelve applications are supported through the Community Grant scheme totalling £26,950, (three of which will also be referred for additional funding through the Cost of Living fund), with nine applications declined, (two of which will be referred for consideration by the Cost of Living fund), leaving a balance of £0 for the 2022/23 financial year.

It was identified that five of the applications that were received in this Round could be either additionally or fully supported through other identified funding, the Cost of Living fund that has been established to help contribute to VCS organisations that are supporting individuals and families in the community who are impacted by the increased cost of living. Officers will liaise with those projects identified.

There have been two pressures on this round of funding 1) over-subscription in that the total value of applications is far higher than the total value of funds available to allocate. 2) there were additional applications to support new emerging needs as a result of the cost of living crisis. As a result of these pressures, the Grants Panel agreed to give some priority to requests for support to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on VCS organisations and those they support. As a result some applications either received a lower award or were declined. Likewise, this was applied where repeat applications had been received from organisations that had been awarded grants in the first round of 2022/23.

Risk Management

The risks associated with the decision Cabinet is asked to make and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Grants do not deliver the objectives of the Grants scheme	Remote (1)	Minor (1)	Very Low (1)	The grants have been assessed against the criteria and will be supported with appropriate monitoring information.

## Equality and Diversity

There is a requirement in the grants criteria for each organisation that applies to either have their own Equal Opportunities Policy or provide a statement that the organisation will abide by the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

In addition, an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and attached at Appendix 2.

## Crime and Disorder

Many of the grants awarded support the provision of activities and programmes for both children, young people and adults which contribute towards reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour through the provision of diversionary activity and promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers: None

Officers to contact: Peter Oliver  
Director of Housing and Wellbeing  
01509 634952  
[peter.oliver@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:peter.oliver@charnwood.gov.uk)

Verity Graham  
Neighbourhoods & Partnerships Co-ordinator  
01509 632516  
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## Part B

### Charnwood Community Grants Criteria

1. At its meeting on 11th March 2021, Cabinet agreed the revised Charnwood Community Grants scheme following the 2021/22 budgets for the grant schemes being agreed at Cabinet on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The previous grants schemes (Community Development and Engagement, Loughborough grants and the Sports grants) were reviewed and changes made, resulting in a proposed new combined grants scheme called Charnwood Community Grants.
2. The main criteria include the following:
  - maximum grant award of £5000
  - criteria has been amended to make it accessible to sports clubs and sports organisations
  - provides funding for projects delivered by the voluntary and community sector
3. The application form has been shortened and been devised to ensure that only relevant questions are asked. The associated assessment process has been adapted to ensure that the scoring system is directly related to the questions on the application form, with each question having a maximum score of 5. The Grants Panel will assess the applications and score against each of the questions, with a maximum score of 35.
4. The scoring and assessment process allows the Grants Panel members to provide an overall score of the application itself as well as provide additional comments based on the knowledge they have of groups, emerging issues in the sector or localities as well as things they have picked out from the application which can be brought to the meeting for discussion.

The level of score achieved reflects the level of grant recommended. A low score will result in no award being recommended, a medium score will result in some of the grant applied for being awarded, with high scoring applications receiving most, if not all of the funding applied for.

Score	Level of funding
Low score	Nil
Medium score	Some of grant funding applied for
High score	Most or all of funding applied for

### Community Facilities Grants

5. At its meeting on 11th March 2021, Cabinet agreed the revised Charnwood Community Facilities Grants scheme. The Community Facilities Grant scheme was revised, removing the Feasibility study and small environmental project elements, and allowing for the inclusion of certain sports related projects.



6. The criteria include the following:
  - That the maximum amount awarded would be £20,000 for projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
  - Inclusion of sports clubs and sports organisations who previously were not able to access this grants scheme.
7. Schemes are scored using an assessment matrix which looks for:
  - Well prepared schemes, with a realistic costing of the work, and projects that are well targeted, have good local support and a strong input from volunteers.
  - Projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
  - Applications from organisations with a strong local base and full accessibility to the community.
  - The need of the community for the facility and the need of the organisation for the funding.
8. The assessment matrix produces a maximum score of 100. A scheme scoring below 30 on the matrix is recommended for refusal and the Grants Panel will provide feedback to the community organisation on the reasons why it was not successful. Where a scheme scores between 30 and 40 on the first assessment the Grants Panel will work with the community organisation to see whether the bid can be improved and strengthened. Schemes scoring 40 and above are normally recommended for approval. However, applicants seeking a large grant which scores only just over 40 are advised that they may only receive part of the money they have applied for.

### **Community Facilities Grant Applications**

9. Three applications were received for the Community Facilities Grants in Round Two for 2022/23. One of these had been deferred from Round Three Facilities Grants in 2021/22. The applications were assessed against the grants criteria and three applications were recommended for funding.

### **Loughborough Generator CIC – Score 36.6 – Recommendation to award up to £15,000**

10. The objects of the Company are to carry on activities which benefit the community and in particular the creative communities of Loughborough, the greater Leicestershire area and other communities. The organisation will do this by providing a spectrum of affordable workspace and arts space accommodation, be a centre for community and participatory arts activities and to promote and encourage enterprise and involvement amongst young people, socially excluded people and disadvantaged people.
11. The application is for funding towards the creation within the building of an outstanding venue for Arts performance, conferences, exhibitions and events

as well as flexible space for use by local artists, community groups and creative businesses. The works will be carried out in Phases, with Phase 1 (which is the subject of this application) bringing forward into use the Generator Hall, the ground floor of the 2 storey wedge building and the basement. It is this Phase of works which has been included as a project in the Loughborough Town Deal at £1.6m submitted to MCHLG on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The main hall will retain its minimalist industrial character but with the addition of a new mezzanine floor, a converted basement and a roof garden. The existing two storey element will be converted to artists' studios and meeting spaces.

12. The application had previously been deferred from Round Three of the Community Facilities grants scheme for 2021/22, and the applicant has since provided the following additional information:
  - They have appointed a fundraiser who has helped with applications to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for £125,000 and to the Community Ownership Fund for £195,000 which, if successful, will substantially reduce their funding gap.
  - Regarding community benefit, they have had discussions with Charnwood Arts and have identified a number of ways in which they can use the Generator building to help deliver their programme of community arts activities, aimed specifically at minority groups. This will help them fulfil their Business Plan commitment to make one third of the time available in the building for community use at reduced and charity rates or even free. They have also produced an Activity Plan which shows how they will engage with the local community to produce a programme of activity with local arts groups, local schools and volunteers during the construction period and for one year after opening. They will engage a Community Engagement Coordinator to deliver this programme which will include recording, interpreting and sharing the history and heritage of the building and its role in the development and growth of the town.
  - The ventilation works are a discrete part of the overall M&E works in the building. The cost plan identifies them separately at a cost of £20,000. They will be capable of specific inspection and sign off.
  - They are still on target for going out to tender early in the new year and appointing a contractor to start work in the Spring of 2023.
13. The application of £20,000 is for 0.8% of the total project costs of £2,500,000.
14. The Panel scored this scheme at 36.6 and recommends that a grant of up to £15,000 be awarded towards the cost of the ventilation system.
15. The Panel feel that the organisation has addressed their previous queries from Round Three 2021/22, and that the project is on target. However, as the application has scored lower than other Community Facilities applications, they recommend that the amount awarded is less than the amount that was applied for and is a contribution towards the cost of the ventilation system. Given the previous deferral and the additional information provided it is not considered appropriate to seek to further improve the application.

**1<sup>st</sup> Mountsorrel Scout Group – Score 47.5 – Recommendation to award up to £3,917**

16. 1<sup>st</sup> Mountsorrel Scout Group aims to actively engage and support young people in their personal development, empowering them to make a positive contribution to society. The Scout Group offers all sections including Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, catering for boys and girls aged 6 to 14 years. The Guide Association offers all Sections include Rainbows, Brownies & Guides, catering for girls aged 5 to 14 years. Membership of both youth organisations is available to all young persons equally and attracts members from throughout Mountsorrel and the surrounding area. Importantly for this funding, the scout hall also serves as a community venue for range of other users.
17. The application is for funding towards the installation of a new kitchen in the scout hall, following the roof leaking, which has now been resolved by having a new fully insulated roof. They will internally insulate the external wall and put in a cardine floor which is harder wearing than vinyl, thus improving insulation and the ease to keep hygienically clean. The use of the kitchen extends to all other hall users. The building is widely used by numerous charitable and private businesses primarily providing educational activities for young people. Private businesses using the hall include Matrix Martial Arts who offer classes to youth, adult and family groups. These classes are open to all members of the community, and families are able to turn up to trial these activities. Jessica School of Dance offer a selection of dance classes to different age ranges of young people. The Scout Hall has also been used for events supporting the local community such the Village Fete, Revival Festival, Village History exhibition etc.
18. The benefits of the project include:
  - Supports the programme of activities at the hall, providing opportunities to teach young people how to cook, safely use equipment, and the importance of hygiene – basic but essential life-skills;
  - Will ensure the continued use of the hall by local residents, businesses and groups attending various activities.
19. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“I would like to add my support to this grant application.”

“I certainly would fully support, looks super.”

“I certainly support this application.”
20. The application of £3,917 is for 50% of the total project costs of £7,835.
21. The panel scored this scheme at 47.5 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,917 be awarded.
22. The Panel feel that the application has demonstrated a need for this project and that there is wide community benefit to a large number of residents and groups

from the local area. The Panel noted that match-funding had been secured and quotations had been provided.

**King George's Field Charity – Score 40.9 – Recommendation to award up to £14,900**

23. King George's Field Charity aims to manage the King George Field and community buildings in Woodhouse Eaves to provide facilities and services for the whole Parish's enjoyment. The organisation has managed the new Scout and Community Hall project and will continue to be responsible for bookings, maintenance and utility costs. Essentially the Charity will permit the site to become the location of the new building and with on-going running costs support from the Parish Council as necessary. They anticipate an uplift in bookings, and reduced energy running costs (vs the old existing building) will ensure the sustainable future of the building. The facility will benefit the wider community (general public) with availability for booking for both public and private functions. The modern sustainable building will become the focus of local initiatives such as Good Neighbour Scheme, Befriending, Neighbourhood Watch, WI, Plastic Free Group etc.
24. The application is for funding towards the installation of a kitchen within the new Scout and Community Hall. The building and kitchen are designed to fulfil the needs of younger users to enjoy boisterous play and activities, something discouraged in other facilities. The large kitchen has been designed to suit the teaching of culinary skills, access for disabled and wheelchair users (disabled toilet provided too), which makes it an ideal venue. King George's Field Charity and the Woodhouse Eaves Scouts have formed a joint venture to bring this to fruition. The new kitchen will be more economical, easier to run and maintain. The new building with double glazed windows and doors, fully insulated walls and floor.
25. The benefits of the project include:
  - Will attract families with babies and toddlers;
  - A meeting place for the elderly and a 'befriending group' to chat over a cup of tea;
  - Easy access and doors opening onto the park, will make it a regular venue for groups to meet and enjoy social and physical activities;
  - The different nature of the new hall and kitchen is designed to attract a much more youthful audience with children's groups, sports, children's parties;
  - Will ensure the continued use of the hall by local residents, by catering for additional needs.
26. The Local Ward Councillor was consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“This has been a community led initiative especially the local scout group and volunteers. This will certainly provide improvements to the delivery of community activity, especially aimed at young people through the scouts and others. This would be a much needed addition to the facilities provided within the community, especially having the ability to provide refreshments on site

through this proposed kitchen. After all the hard work within the community already raising this amount of money, it would be a real lift if their efforts were supported by Charnwood Borough Council through this grant scheme. If all the criteria is met within the grant scheme, I have no hesitation in supporting this grant application. This project will be a great asset to the local community especially providing much needed facilities for young people.”

27. The application of £14,900 is for 50% of the total project costs of £29,800.
28. The panel scored this scheme at 40.9 and recommends that a grant of up to £14,900 be awarded.
29. The Panel recognise that the new hall is re-purposing the existing land and that the replacement kitchen will be a great addition to the new hall, and an asset to the community, ensuring the continued use of the hall. The Panel noted that match-funding had been secured and quotations had been provided.

### **Community Grant Scheme Applications**

30. Twenty-two applications were received for funding in Round Two for 2022/23. One application received, from Shepshed Lions Community First Responders, was not eligible for funding as we are not able to fund or indirectly support statutory funded provision as stated in their constitution and application form for the following reasons: East Midlands Ambulance Service is named as a ‘stakeholder’ in their constitution and is an operational delivery partner. Their core role is to respond to medical emergencies as dispatched by EMAS in accordance with their Responder Policy. However, it should be noted that the organisation has since taken up our offer of support to identify alternative sources of funding. Twenty-one applications have therefore been assessed against the criteria. Twelve applications have been recommended for approval, and nine to be declined.

### **Passion – Score 30.2 - Recommendation to award up to £5,000**

31. Passion engages with fifty young people a week over the services currently provided. They mainly work with young people from Shepshed, however, they also have contact with young people from Loughborough and Mountsorrel. They are an open-door service that helps to empower young people to realise their potential. They offer a non-judgemental service that offers young people the chance to gain the skills to obtain employment. They provide a safe space at the hub for the vulnerable young people of Shepshed and surrounding areas. This can come in many guises from mental health, drug prevention, reporting concerns on county lines, sexual health, academic achievement, life skills and offer food to those that otherwise would go without.
32. The application is for funding towards the employment of paid youth workers for 20 hours a week. Covid-19 has made gaining enough voluntary staff to provide their projects difficult. Many of the long-standing volunteers have had to take a step back due to either changes in employment due to Covid-19, or obligations to vulnerable family members. They would also like help towards their soaring

energy costs. The young people attend the drop in or other services to gain warmth emotionally and physically. This will start to get harder as the energy crisis increases their bills.

33. The benefits of the project include:
- Bridging the gap within the local community between the young people and the elderly – with the Shepshed Community Café;
  - Youth Support service includes emotional, education and employability support;
  - Safe place for the young people to come and feel that there is someone to talk to who will listen and give advice when needed.
34. The Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:
- “Happy to support this application.”
- “Happy to support this.”
35. The application of £5,000 is for 7% of the total project cost of £71,837.
36. The Panel scored this scheme at 30.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £5,000 be awarded.
37. The Panel feel that the organisation is increasing their offer and delivery, replacing provision that has been cut elsewhere, helping to keep anti-social behaviour levels down and has an important and positive effect on the cost of living crisis, by taking pressure off the children’s and young people’s families.

**Quetzal – Score 29.8 - Recommendation to award up to £3,248**

38. Quetzal supports female survivors of childhood sexual abuse aged 16 and above living in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The project is to support female survivors aged 16 and above living in the Charnwood area by providing a safe space to explore their feelings and emotions in relation to Childhood Sexual Abuse. They support survivors by providing:
- A range of free therapeutic counselling services to equip survivors with the tools to build a better life;
  - Awareness raising sessions and activities for equipping communities and their family with knowledge and skills to better support female survivors;
  - Specialised training and clinical supervision to their volunteer counsellors and community connectors supporting survivors in their journey towards recovery.
39. The application is for funding towards a 16-week project, free counselling to 30 women aged 16 and above living in Charnwood by providing them a safe space to explore their feelings and emotions in relation to Childhood Sexual Abuse and how it impacts their lives on the day-to-day basis and a warm place where

they can remain if they choose to come to Leicester for their face-to-face session. The counselling will happen at the convenience of the female survivors remotely over the telephone, online or face-to-face at Quetzal office in Leicester.

40. The benefits of the project include:
- For those who decide to go to Quetzal for the face-to-face sessions, they will be able to use the 'warm bank' as they will open their meeting room for their beneficiaries to remain over the winter period as a means to support them during the crisis;
  - Female survivors are given tools to better deal with the impacts of abuse, reducing in turn the risks of self-harm, suicide, neglect, eating disorders and addiction;
  - Women who access the service are also better able to deal with the disorders born out of trauma including PTSD, anxiety attacks, flashbacks, borderline personality disorders and more.
41. The application of £3,248 is for 100% of the total project costs.
42. The Panel scored this scheme at 29.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,248 be awarded, subject to discussions regarding face to face outreach within Charnwood.
43. The Panel feel that this is an important organisation doing vital work to support women in Charnwood, and working in partnership with our Strategic Partner Living Without Abuse. The Panel would like to see face to face outreach within Charnwood moving forward, as currently service-users have to travel to Leicester. The organisation will be contacted to discuss this in more detail with a view to finding a potential site within Charnwood.

**Falcon Support Services – Score 29.4 - Recommendation to award up to £3,000 (and refer the balance requested for consideration in Cost of Living fund)**

44. Falcon Support Services offer 104 bed spaces across Leicestershire to those who would otherwise have nowhere to sleep, as well as hosting a variety of drop-in day centres which provide support and signposting for the community.

They seek to:

- Promote the dignity of vulnerable people;
- Restore physical and mental health and wellbeing, including substance misuse support;
- Provide high quality, stable, supportive environments and accommodation for vulnerable people during their transition to independence;
- Assist vulnerable people in developing the social and life skills necessary to plan and prepare for their futures;
- Enable vulnerable people to integrate into the local community.

45. The application is for funding towards the Loughborough Drop-In service at the Falcon Centre on Pinfold Gate. It is a community service providing a safe place to engage with the most vulnerable. The drop-in is needed to address the increasing isolation being experienced, relieve the hardships faced through poverty and increased cost of living, prevent homelessness and reduce the revolving door of those becoming homeless. From the drop-in, they run a rough sleeper service, providing hot food and drinks, care of address, rough sleeper lockers to store belongings, clothing, access to showers, clothes and washing facilities. The principles of the drop-in are to be open access, removing all barriers to gaining support. Their service users often have chaotic lifestyles and urgent problems where phone contact or booked appointments are not appropriate. They operate with an open-door policy, to help in anyway and provide opportunities to create a better everyday life.
46. The benefits of the project include:
- Reduced social isolation;
  - Alleviation of poverty and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis;
  - Provision of healthy hot food for those facing food poverty;
  - Provision of a safe warm space with support;
  - Improved life chances for the disadvantaged;
  - Improved physical and mental health by signposting and referring to local agencies/primary health care.
47. The application of £5,000 is for 100% of the total project costs.
48. The Panel scored this scheme at 29.4 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,000 be awarded, and the balance requested be referred for consideration to the Cost of Living fund.
49. The Panel feel that the drop-in service is an important project offering a much needed service, and where the organisation needs to increase its capacity. The project fully addresses the cost of living crisis, and therefore the Panel recommend funding the grant request partly through the Cost of Living fund.

#### **MADS Group – Score 27.8 - Recommendation to award up to £2,000**

50. The MADS Group stands for Mental health, anxiety, depression and support, and anyone who suffers with any of these issues, suffer with loneliness or would just like to meet people with similar issues are more than welcome to attend the group. The support they offer includes help guiding people with professional services they need, giving a purpose, helping to socialise with people, help to become outgoing, creativity, management of their condition. They also have professional services attend to give talks on supporting subjects. They have 20 members and the number is increasing as awareness of the group is growing and referrals increase. Ages ranging from early twenties to eighty plus. Members are from the Charnwood area, predominantly from around Syston areas.



51. The application is for funding towards general running costs and activities associated with the Wednesday group which runs from approximately 10 till 12, although has been known to run longer and is located in the Syston Working Men's Club. The group is organised by the Chairperson with the help of 5 other volunteers. The groups provides time and space to sit and chat whilst enjoying some refreshments.
52. The benefits of the project include:
  - Improved mental wellbeing;
  - Improved social cohesion with people in similar positions.
53. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and no comments were received.
54. The application of £3,480 is for 82% of the total project cost of £4,230.
55. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded towards the room hire and general running costs.
56. This application scored highly against the criteria of the scheme. The organisation has not applied for grant funding before, is providing support for mental health, and is a grass roots organisation, therefore the Panel would like to support this group with funding towards the room hire and core activity costs.

**Artspace Loughborough – Score 27.4 - Recommendation to award up to £2,000**

57. Artspace Loughborough is an artist led creative organisation. They currently have 22 members who predominantly live and work in the Charnwood area. Much of the group's work takes place in Loughborough and Charnwood but some work extends nationally and occasionally internationally. Artspace projects involve a wide range of public audience and participants from all walks of life. Artspace aims:
  - To increase the number and range of people experiencing and participating in the arts, particularly through the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers;
  - To unite local, practicing artists and develop a network within the region to facilitate the sharing of information, resources, skills and opportunities;
  - To use the collective potential of a group to generate new opportunities and larger projects for artists to take part in;
  - To provide a forum for local, practicing artists to share, discuss and develop their creative ideas with other practicing artists;
  - To raise the profile of the group and its members through exhibitions, community-based art projects and workshops, and other events;
  - To encourage collaborative work/projects with other organisations when that work is to the mutual advantage of both parties and in the interest of the development of the arts.

58. The application is for funding towards a 'Tree People' Trail in the Loughborough Outwoods. An artist will be commissioned to create 120 small ceramic figures, similar to those created for the 2019 and 2022 Outwoods sculpture trails. The 'tree people' are handmade and each one is individual. These will be carefully installed in trees along a defined and signposted trail winding along the woodland paths for approx. 1.5 miles. The 'tree people' will be sited in varied unknown locations and it will be for the visitors to find as many of them as they can on their walk. The trail will be set-up in late April and will be dismantled in early October, being an attraction for approximately 24 weeks throughout the summer and school holidays.
59. The benefits of the project include:
- Interactive outdoor creative event, encouraging many visitors to the Outwoods;
  - It will be fully wheelchair accessible and 'tramper' mobility vehicles for people with disabilities will be available free of charge;
  - Will reduce social isolation and help improve the lives of disadvantaged people by offering an accessible opportunity to engage with others and nature;
  - This project will increase visitors to green spaces. It will help the public to engage with nature and thus will lead to a more caring attitude to the environment;
  - Spending time outdoors and walking in the woods will also bring great physical health benefits.
60. The application of £3,985 is for 100% of the total project costs.
61. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.4 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded.
62. The Panel note that this has been a successful event over the past few years, and is a positive activity for families and children, encouraging visitors from the wider community to be active outdoors.

**Shepshed Dolphins Swimming Group – Score 27.4 - Recommendation to award up to £2,500**

63. Shepshed Dolphins Swimming Group is a swimming group for anyone with a disability – physical, sensory or learning, mental health illness, recovering from injury or illness and long-term health conditions. They provide weekly pool sessions in which their members can swim, walk or exercise in the water in a small friendly welcoming environment. They have approx. 84 members on their database, with average swimmers for this year 17 per session. This is a huge increase since pre-pandemic and they would like to continue offering this much needed service to their members. They have a total of nine volunteers, one administrator, one specialist instructor and six lifeguards (on a rota system) who make the sessions possible.

64. The application is for funding towards the cost of hiring the swimming pool and other running costs if possible. To be able to run their sessions and keep them low cost so that their members can continue coming with other costs rising, is really important to them. They deliver their sessions every Saturday morning. Members of the group have varying disabilities and health needs, ranging from stroke recovery, physical disability, mobility issues such as arthritis, vision impairments, autism, and mental health illness such as anxiety. The sessions run for 46 weeks of the year.
65. The benefits of the project include:
- Improved physical and mental health and wellbeing for anyone with a disability or additional health need, giving them the chance to swim in a friendly, welcoming, non-judgmental environment;
  - Opportunity to also socialise and interact with different people through the swimming and gentle exercise, or their social fundraising events.
66. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and no comments were received.
67. The application of £5,000 is for 45% of the total project cost of £11,013.
68. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.4 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded.
69. The Panel recognise the valuable work of the organisation however, due to this being a repeat application the Panel doesn't feel able to fund the full amount requested. The amount recommended to be awarded covers the cost of pool hire for six months, and Officers will be happy to discuss further funding opportunities with the group.

### **Menphys – Score 27 - Recommendation to award up to £1,000**

70. Menphys is a charity which supports disabled children, young people and their families in Leicester and Leicestershire. Their mission is to deliver a quality service that values the views and enables the voice of disabled children, young people and their families. They aim to provide a range of holistic and empowering services so that disabled young people can take part fully in their community and have the same choices, opportunities and experiences as other children. From clubs and activities to work placement opportunities, Menphys creates an environment where disabled children can develop independence and explore accessible activities which develop their ability rather than focussing on what they are unable to do.
71. The application is for funding towards the costs of the venue where the Charnwood Mini Menphys sessions are held to allow the project to run in this district. Mini Menphys in the Community has provided a Parent and Toddler group throughout the county districts for children aged 0-5 years with special educational needs and disabilities and their siblings. The group includes physical activity, play and the opportunity to have social interaction in a safe, inclusive environment. The staff that currently support the groups provide

equipment to support children of all ages between 0-5, e.g. tummy time building strength in their upper body. The project is delivered by an Early Years Club Lead. This individual will be able to provide key advice and support for families who are currently on their journey to a diagnosis. This may be guidance towards a key external agency and advice for what the next steps may be, it could be just a 'listening ear' and a conversation to provide the parent/carer with the confidence to keep pushing to achieve a diagnosis.

72. The benefits of the project include:
- Support for sign posting to other support networks;
  - Provides a safe space to meet and talk to like-minded individuals who are going through a similar experience.
73. The application of £2,641 is for 87% of the total project cost of £3,019.
74. The Panel scored this scheme at 27 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,000 be awarded.
75. This a first-time application from an organisation very well-established outside of our Borough and having successfully piloted a project in Charnwood. The panel recognise this is important continuation and would like to support the organisation to provide wider support for families with severely disabled children.

**Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland – Score 25.8 - Recommendation to award up to £2,550**

76. Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland has substantial experience in identifying need and delivering appropriate services for older people to improve their health and wellbeing. They actively work in partnership with professional health and social care providers to ensure they meet identified need. It is a local charity which promotes the older people's wellbeing by helping make later life more fulfilling and enjoyable. They are committed to maintaining the dignity, privacy and independence of older people by providing a range of relevant services which meet their needs and wishes.
77. The application is for funding towards the Men and Women in Sheds project in Loughborough, which has been running since May 2015 with the aim of tackling loneliness and increasing social engagement amongst older men. It is a workshop and focal point for older men in the community who wish to take advantage of shared tools, resources, skills and support for individual pursuits and community projects. The Shed, located in an industrial unit, is a place of purpose, achievement and social interaction. It is a centre where the men come together to engage in activities such as carpentry, metal work, model making, repairs, crafts, pottery and gardening. Many of the men are referred through health and social care professionals or family members with a view to combatting their social isolation as a step-in improving health and wellbeing. Many are suffering from physical and mental frailty including heart conditions, COPD, partial sight, dementia and Parkinson's Disease. The need for the Men in Sheds Project emerged from their existing work with older people and their

collaboration with other local statutory and voluntary organisations. The Shed is now in its sixth year of operation. Whilst set up to tackle social isolation amongst older men, the remit was broadened in 2017 to include women and the project now caters for over 200 older people in the borough.

78. The benefits of the project include:
- Improved access to physical activities for young people;
  - Reduction in social isolation and loneliness;
  - Improved health and wellbeing;
  - Increased involvement in the community;
  - Increased feelings of self-worth and confidence;
  - Development of new skills and new social networks;
  - Access to other activities and services.
79. The application of £3,000 is for 7% of the total project cost of £40,150.
80. The Panel scored this scheme at 25.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,550 be awarded.
81. The Panel feel that this is a strong project with proven outcomes, which is also addressing the cost of living crisis, due to the people they are supporting.

**Second Time Around CIC – Score 25 - Recommendation to award up to £1,652**

82. Second Time Around CIC has been set up to support the local community. They have recently opened their shop in Syston which accepts donations of good quality second-hand items, including clothing and household goods for affordable low-price resale. The organisation is different from other local charity shops because they are the only community shop for the Syston community, and donations to the shop will be sold at this shop only. In addition, they offer individual support to those who need it. They grow their own vegetables which are given away to those in need. Local residents also donate tomato plants, money plants and also bedding plants. These have been given to residents of the community who have an interest in gardening and are on their own. They aim to continue to support the most vulnerable through this service helping individuals and families experiencing financial hardship or difficulties and the elderly who are most isolated. The shop also acts as a social hub allowing people to come in the future and be signposted to local agencies for specialist support. Part of the support will be providing local food hampers to the lonely and vulnerable in the community, many of whom live alone with no means of getting out for essential items. In addition they will create
83. Second Time Around CIC has taken over the lease and stock from the previous tenant (Spinal cord Injury Charity) and this application for funding is towards the re-launch of the shop and new CIC trading model, which is located in Town Square, Syston. The success of the project relies on good engagement with the local community. They will re-launch, re-brand and re-model what they have in the shop. They aim to be transparent in what they offer and will involve local people in the process wherever they can. The community notice board in the

shop will provide information on items needed and any other information regarding the activity of the CIC, e.g. the provision of hampers and use of donations.

84. The benefits of the project include:
- The practical work experience the shop provides aims to enhance communication and increase confidence and self-esteem;
  - Local volunteering opportunities for those looking to enhance their skills and experience to increase employability;
  - Improving the quality of life of individuals, the elderly and families on low income, who are vulnerable and/or isolated by providing affordable, accessible second hand items which includes clothing, household goods, children's' clothing, toys, games and food;
  - Reducing the amount going into landfill by encouraging people to donate unwanted items to the shop and "do their bit" to protect the environment.
85. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:
- "I would be happy to support this grant. I recently visited Second Time Around and they were kind enough to talk to me about the aims of the group, they are a community based organisation – formally Caudia Equina, aimed at helping those who are vulnerable, indeed they have already helped a local gentleman who has suffered some mental health issues."
86. The application of £4,796 is for 100% of the total project costs.
87. The Panel scored this scheme at 25 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,652 be awarded.
88. The Panel feel that this enterprise is embedded in and providing a unique offer in the local community they support. The original staff working for the previous charity have created a new Community Interest Company in order to continue a financially viable project going forward.

**Sacred Heart Church Loughborough – Score 25 - Recommendation to award up to £2,000 (and refer the balance requested for consideration in Cost of Living fund)**

89. Sacred Heart Church Loughborough is situated on Park Road which is in the Shelthorpe area of Loughborough.
90. The application is for funding towards the provision of warm hubs for people in need in the Shelthorpe area. They have been in consultation with other churches in the area and having spoken to people who attend the churches, they are all in agreement that there will be a need for this sort of provision in the coming months. The project will be delivered by volunteers principally, but not exclusively, from Sacred Heart Parish Church. The hubs will initially be at

Sacred Heart church hall and Good Shepherd church hall, both on Park Road in Loughborough. The project will run from the beginning of November until at least the end of March. They would aim to be open between 10.00am and 2.00pm for two days per week. As well as providing a warm and welcoming environment they would offer tea, coffee, cake, biscuits, soup and sandwiches. They would also offer a variety of appropriate activities e.g. board games, cards, jigsaws, bingo etc.

91. The benefits of the project include:
- Reduction of social isolation;
  - Improvement of physical and mental well-being amongst the Shelthorpe community.
92. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:
- “I do think it’s a very good use of an award, as long as the facility is available to everyone.”
93. The application of £5,000 is for 100% of the total project costs.
94. The Panel scored this scheme at 25 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded and the balance requested be referred for consideration to the Cost of Living fund.
95. The Panel feel that this is a good project, with churches working together to extend their offer and address the current cost of living crisis. Although it is difficult to predict the cost of the project at this stage, due to changing energy prices, the Panel feel confident that a contribution through the Community Grants scheme will help launch the project and then possible funding can be sought through the Cost of Living fund further along, once costs are more apparent.

**Thurcaston and Cropston Gardening Club – Score 23.4 - Recommendation to award up to £500**

96. The objectives of the club are to:
- Promote and encourage the past time of gardening;
  - Hold regular meetings for talks, discussions and demonstrations;
  - Hold an annual show;
  - Arrange visits to gardens and other sites, and other activities as deemed appropriate by the Garden club committee;
  - Raise money by subscription for membership and by grant application;
  - Grant rights and privileges to subscribers.
97. The application is for funding towards their annual Craft and Produce Show for 2023. The show is now in its 37<sup>th</sup> year and has been a great success bringing not only members of the club, but others in the community together. The schedule is reconsidered every year by examining those classes that have

attracted the highest numbers of exhibits and obtaining the views of members as to any suggestions for new classes. It is a one day event and is held in the local primary school premises. It is a non-profit making event and as costs rise it can quickly drain the garden club's reserves, forcing the club committee to seriously consider cancellation of future shows. For the 2022 show, they increased the entry fee, which increased their income to a more acceptable level (from 50p to £1) and did not seem to discourage entries.

98. The benefits of the project include:
- Brings the community together;
  - Provides the opportunity for individuals to share their talents;
  - Encourages gardening and craft activities;
  - Supports wellbeing, particularly mental health.
99. The Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:
- “I am happy to support this application. This is a very community-based club and it would be very sad to see this local event disappear.”
100. The application of £500 is for 59% of the total project cost of £850.
101. The Panel scored this scheme at 23.4 and recommends that a grant of up to £500 be awarded.
102. The Panel feel that they would like to support this project, which is a relatively small sum for a positive event for the local community.

**The Coffee Shop, Birstall Methodist Church – Score 23.4 - Recommendation to award up to £1,500 (and refer the balance requested for consideration in Cost of Living fund)**

103. Birstall Methodist Church runs a Coffee Shop on Tuesday to Saturday from 10:00am until 12 noon where members of the community can meet friends and family in a warm, welcoming environment and enjoy a hot drink and a snack or treat. They currently welcome approx. 200 people each week. These range from the elderly and infirm to families with young children. They have customers from all faith groups and non-believers. The coffee shop is manned by volunteers and a team of volunteers bake cakes and scones.
104. The application is for funding towards opening the coffee shop as a "Warm Space" from 9:30am until 12:30pm, and extending to Mondays, where people can go to get a hot drink and a snack and charge their phone. They are also hoping to open the church lounge so people have a warm area to work if they need it. With the current energy crisis, several of their elderly customers are already worried that they will be unable to heat and light their homes this winter.
105. The benefits of the project include:



- A space for people to go in order to keep warm if they are struggling at home;
  - Improved physical and mental wellbeing, and social cohesion.
106. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:  
“I am quite happy to support this application.”
107. The application of £3,250 is for 100% of the total project costs.
108. The Panel scored this scheme at 23.4 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,500 be awarded, and the balance requested be referred for consideration to the Cost of Living fund.
109. This is a straightforward proposition to extend current provision to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on current and new emerging users of the Coffee Shop. Although the application did not score as highly against the criteria of the scheme, the Panel feel that it should be a priority for support.

#### **Upstarts Gymnastics Club – Score 27.4 - Recommendation to decline**

110. Upstarts provides artistic gymnastics activities for boys and girls from early years through to teens, at all levels from recreational participation to a variety of competitive opportunities. They also provide adult recreational participation that ranges from fitness to developing and/or maintaining their gymnastics skills.
111. The application is for funding towards soft landing pit facilities. They gratefully acknowledge receipt of a Community Grant in the previous round, which has enabled them to purchase Phase 1 of the Gym Raised Pit with Soft Landing Areas. This has been ordered and will be delivered and installed by mid-October. At this point their gymnasts will start to gain the benefit of working with this equipment, at one of their several equipment stations (viz single bar). They would like to install similar equipment at their other equipment stations (viz parallel bars, beam, and vault), hence this application for a further Raised Pit. Their coaches consider that landing-pits are essential, enabling their gymnasts to develop new skills with confidence and, of course, safely.
112. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and no comments were received.
113. The application of £4,000 is for 89% of the total project cost of £4,500.
114. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.4 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
115. Because the applicant makes a strong case for funding, the application scored relatively high. However, a £3,500 grant was awarded in Round One 2022/23 for the first phase of this gym facility. The Panel feel that they need to prioritise groups that have not already been funded this financial year, and particularly those that are addressing the current Cost of Living crisis and supporting disadvantaged people.

**New Life Community Church – Score 24.6 - Recommendation to decline (to be referred for consideration in Cost of Living fund)**

116. New Life Community Church provides an all-inclusive community space where everyone is welcome, irrespective of background or religion. Their community outreach combines an established Trussell Trust Foodbank and a professional CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Counselling Service. Their overall aim is to connect with, and sustainably lift out of poverty, those in the community who are most vulnerable, poor and excluded. They are passionate about reaching out to, and improving the lives of, disadvantaged individuals and families across Charnwood.
117. The application is for funding towards the continuing employment of their Family Worker, one day per week from January 2023 to December 2023 to work at the centre at De Montfort Close in Loughborough. The activities of the Family Worker, enhancing their service beyond “just a foodbank”, include:
- Being present at three foodbank sessions per week (Monday 1-4pm, Wednesday 6-8pm and Friday 10-1pm) to offer additional support to families who use our services;
  - Offering a compassionate and non-judgemental ‘listening ear’ to clients to get to know them and identify additional support they require;
  - Signposting and making referrals for clients who need external expert services (for example to CAB, Living Without Abuse, The Bridge). Or referring clients to their in-house services (including CAP debt centre, Youth Club, Parent and Toddler group and Mental Health Support service);
  - Applying for small microgrants for clients for essential items they cannot afford, such as furniture, white goods, school uniform or gas/electric meters;
  - Directing and organising payment of funds from the ‘Household Support Fund’ for those families most in need;
  - Arranging Christmas presents for children whose families use their services.
118. The application of £2,000 is for 45% of the total project cost of £4,400.
119. The Panel scored this scheme at 24.6 and recommends that the application for funding be declined, and referred for consideration by the Cost of Living fund.
120. The Panel feel that this is an important resource for the community and that the project fully addresses the current cost of living crisis, therefore recommends that the full amount be referred to the Cost of Living fund for consideration. This is a repeat application and the organisation has been significantly supported through the Community Grants schemes over the last few years receiving £3,000 in Round One 2022/23. The grants panel recommend the application be considered for support through the Cost of Living fund, this will enable this grants scheme to support other community initiatives.

### **Nanpantan Ward Residents Group – Score 23.8 - Recommendation to decline**

121. The group's aims and objectives are to represent all residents within the Nanpantan ward of Charnwood regarding any issues they may have within the scope of the constitution. They have been working closely with many agencies over several years. They also aim to promote a sense of responsibility and community amongst students/landlords.
122. The application is for funding towards their ongoing costs as follows:
- Bank charges – recently imposed by the Banks;
  - Website hosting and maintenance;
  - Subscription to NORA (National Organisation of Residents' Associations);
  - Maintenance/enhancement of the Nanpantan Road rose beds.
123. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:
- “I am happy to support this grant application as it supports previous funds and continues to assist the community involvement in the upkeep of their local environment.”
124. The application of £560 is for 100% of the total project costs.
125. The Panel scored this scheme at 23.8 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
126. This is a repeat application and the Community Grants and Member Grants schemes have supported the organisation on a number of occasions over the last few years, receiving £250 in Round One 2022/23. The Panel feel that this is not a priority at the current time and, having previously received grant funding, that the organisation could now be doing more to generate funding for themselves.

### **Steps Conductive Education Centre – Score 23.4 - Recommendation to decline**

127. Steps Conductive Education Centre offers a unique service using the principles of Conductive Education for children with conditions that cause motor impairments or motor development delays. They work with children who have Cerebral Palsy, possible chromosome disorders including Down's Syndrome or other conditions which affect the acquisition of motor skills. Many of the children have life limiting conditions. The focus is on what potential the children have and how their development can be enhanced through an optimistic and informed approach. Conductive Education combines education, psychology and medical science and considers all aspects of development. They have fifty children every week in total who access the service, aged 0-5 years in their specialist nursery sessions and aged 5-15 years in their gym club which takes place one afternoon every week as a follow-on support.
128. The organisation's current Centre Manager is retiring and they wish to appoint a local person into this role who is an experienced practitioner with nursery aged

children and working with children who have additional needs. This person has previously worked at a Primary School in Charnwood. She holds a wealth of knowledge about the local area and the families that reside within it, which will be useful in her transition into Steps. The application for funding is to help support the new Centre Manager salary for one year.

129. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“Happy to support this application.”

“I am also happy to support the said application.”

“Very happy to support this application.”

130. The application of £5,000 is for 16% of the total project cost of £31,365.
131. The Panel scored this scheme at 23.4 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
132. The Panel are supportive of the organisation and the work they do, however the application didn't score very highly against the criteria of the scheme and they feel that many of those attending are from outside of Charnwood and only a small number benefitting from the local area. Support to the fundraising team will be offered from officers.

#### **Act One Youth Theatre – Score 23.4 - Recommendation to decline**

133. Act One Youth Theatre is an amateur musical theatre group which has been running in Shepshed, near Loughborough, Leicestershire for 26 years, for the benefit of children and young people in Charnwood, Leicestershire and the surrounding area. As a community youth theatre group they support young people aged 10-18 with an interest in musical theatre, to make new friends and develop their skills and love of performing. They promote education and the arts, and provide and assist in the provision of facilities and activities for recreation, in the interests of social and mental welfare, with the specific aim of improving the conditions of life for the young people. Membership (currently 32), subject to performance of a satisfactory audition, is open to any person regardless of gender, disability, race, ethnic origin, creed, colour or social status.
134. The application is for funding towards the production of their 2023 Musical Show which will take place at the Iveshead Theatre, Shepshed. The project will be delivered, between October 2022 and June 2023, by the volunteers involved with Act One and all members. Being able to perform the show will benefit 32 young people, 25 adult volunteers (principally Musical Director, Producer and Choreographers) and audiences from all age groups from the whole community within the Charnwood area, usually for the musical show c1,000.
135. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“Happy to support this application.”

136. The application of £3,000 is for 22% of the total project cost of £13,350.
137. The Panel scored this scheme at 23.4 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
138. Although the Panel recognise the benefits of the group to the people involved, they feel that many of the participants were from out of the area and that there is a need to prioritise groups that are addressing the current Cost of Living crisis and supporting disadvantaged people.

#### **Mind for You Ltd – Score 22.5 - Recommendation to decline**

139. Mind for You Ltd has been providing supported holidays for people living with dementia and their unpaid family carers since 2015 and are based in Charnwood. For 18 months during the pandemic they were unable to deliver any holidays and developed online and postal activities to support their dementia community. Their holidays were successfully restarted in June 2021, but sales have been significantly impacted by the different coronavirus variants, the Ukraine war and the current economic crisis. Mind for You are sharing their knowledge and experience of taking people on days out on their holidays for the past 7 years to develop a new service, a dementia activity directory to support people living with dementia, their families and friends. Funding has been obtained from Leicester City Council to obtain user feedback from the dementia community in Charnwood and the professionals who support them to develop the directory.
140. The application is for funding towards the running costs of a staff member to engage with local organisations in Charnwood to identify their desire to develop this customer group, identify how they would engage with the dementia activity directory and provide advice on how they could become more dementia friendly.
141. The application of £4,960 is for 100% of the total project costs.
142. The Panel scored this scheme at 22.5 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
143. The Panel feel that the costs are high, and that directories are only correct for a short while, and questioned how it would be updated. With the grants budget under pressure to support vulnerable people through the cost of living crisis, they feel they have to prioritise other groups.

#### **Loughborough Town Cricket Club – Score 22.4 - Recommendation to decline (to be referred for consideration in Cost of Living fund)**

144. The club was first established in 1896. The objectives of the club are:
  - The provision of facilities for the playing of cricket and other sporting and social activities;

- The provision and maintenance of a club house on the club's land at Park Road, Loughborough;
- To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club by adopting the England Cricket Board's (ECB) "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children", and the ECB's Cricket Equality Policy;
- To ensure that all members abide by the ECB Code of Conduct;
- To encourage all members of the club to participate fully in club activities;
- To adopt and implement the ECB Club inclusion and diversity policy.

145. The application is for funding towards
146. The application of £1,500 is for 35% of the total project cost of £4,283.
147. The Panel scored this scheme at 22.4 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
148. The Panel feel that this application reflects the current cost of living crisis impact on organisations running costs, and therefore recommends it is considered for support through the Cost of Living fund. By referring the application to another funding stream, this will enable this grants scheme to support other community initiatives.

#### **The Mason Foundation – Score 18.2 - Recommendation to decline**

149. The Mason Foundation works with vulnerable communities (Quintiles 1&2/BAME/Disabled), with higher prevalence of inequalities. These communities benefit from simple, community led, targeted, sustainable solutions to inactivity and isolation. They achieve this through their Mason Mile activity, which provides a first step into activity for people who may otherwise feel exercise is not for them. The programme provides a fun, safe environment for communities to come along, without the need for kit or devices. The Mason Mile aims to address physical inactivity, and poor physical health, social wellbeing, mental wellbeing and community connection, through their trained champions. Champions are trained and supported by The Mason Foundation, to encourage and support all Milers, signposting to local services where support may be required.
150. The application is for funding towards the Community Mile, which is a six month programme providing opportunities for communities to be active together, providing a starting point for those with no baseline fitness or confidence, giving them a gentle nudge into easy, regular activity. For this particular project, they are partnering with the Loughborough Wellbeing Centre to identify two to five volunteers. These volunteers will then be trained to become Champions, who go on to deliver weekly walk programmes of one mile, or 15 minutes of comparable activity in their community. The activities are accessible for all. The Community Mile will be targeting 40 adults over 18 years, with low mental health and/or inactivity.
151. The application of £3,000 is for 50% of the total project costs of £6,000.

152. The Panel scored this scheme at 18.2 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
153. The Panel feel that the applicant is a national organisation with little experience of working with the VCS in Charnwood and therefore are not able to demonstrate evidence of need relevant to our area.

### **Twenty Twenty – Score 18.2 - Recommendation to decline**

154. Twenty Twenty's Love4Life project specialises in supporting vulnerable girls to develop their self-esteem and form positive and empowering relationships. Girls go to the group with a lack of self-worth often leading to self-harm and suicide ideation, chaotic home environments, poverty, early pregnancy, drug and alcohol misuse, crime, loneliness, isolation and lack of adult support and role models, peer pressure and exploitation risks. The organisation identifies and implements solutions that enable them to go on to live healthy, productive lives, breaking cycles of poverty in their families. They will support around 150 -200 young people in Charnwood this financial year. The majority of their services are in Loughborough, but they deliver wherever the need is identified, always targeting young people from the most deprived neighbourhoods. Their work is focused in and around the schools and community centres that serve the deprived areas of the borough.
155. Due to the loss of their CEO in May, and the departure of their community fundraiser in June, they have lost a significant percentage of their capacity to fundraise. They have increased costs due to inflation, especially the cost of energy for their small central office. The application is therefore for funding towards their rent for the next 12 months, to give them the security of having a base while they re-establish the team. This base enables their staff to meet, to undergo training and to develop and store resources for their work.
156. The application of £5,000 is for 76% of the total project cost of £6,538.
157. The Panel scored this scheme at 18.2 and recommends that the application for funding be declined.
158. The Panel feel that this application lacked information and as an organisation previously funded, would be expected to demonstrate stronger evidence of need. The Panel have suggested that the Children, Families and Partnerships Manager and VCS Development Officer meet with the organisation to understand better what is needed, discuss possible other avenues of joint-working and funding opportunities.

### Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Community Facilities Grants Summary
- Appendix 2 - Community Grants Summary
- Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment

## Round 2 2022/23 - Community Facilities Grants Summary

Opening Budget 2022/23 - £104,303

Balance remaining after Round One: £92,371

Balance remaining after Round Two: £58,554

Applicant	Project description	Amount applied for (£)	Total project cost (£)	Total score	Recommendation
Grant ref 1343 Loughborough Generator CIC	Building works and ventilation system for the Loughborough Generator Project	20,000	2,500,000	36.6	Approve up to £15,000
Grant ref 1390 1 <sup>st</sup> Mountsorrel Scout Group	Kitchen Refurbishment	3,917	7,835	47.5	Approve up to £3,917
Grant ref 1391 King George's Field Charity	Annexe replacement kitchen	14,900	29,800	40.9	Approve up to £14,900



**APPENDIX 2**

**Opening Budget 2022/23 - £50,000**

**Round 2 2022/23 - Community Grants Summary**

**Balance remaining after Round 1: £26,950**

**Balance remaining after Round 2: £0**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>Total project cost (£)</b>	<b>Total score</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Grant ref 1387 Passion	Drop-in and activities	5,000	71,837	30.2	Approve up to £5,000
Grant ref 1386 Quetzal	Counselling sessions	3,248	3,248	29.8	Approve up to £3,248
Grant ref 1372 Falcon Support Services	Drop-in Service	5,000	5,000	29.4	Approve up to £3,000 (and refer the balance requested for consideration in Cost of Living fund)
Grant ref 1378 MADS Group	Running costs and activities	3,480	4,230	27.8	Approve up to £2,000
Grant ref 1381 Artspace Loughborough	Into the Outwoods Tree People Trail 2023	3,985	3,985	27.4	Approve up to £2,000

Grant ref 1382 Shepshed Dolphins Swimming Group	Pool hire costs	5,000	11,013	27.4	Approve up to £2,500
Grant ref 1383 Menphys	Charnwood Mini Menphys	2,641	3,019	27	Approve up to £1,000
Grant ref 1380 Age UK Leicester Shire and Rutland	Charnwood Men and Women in Sheds	3,000	40,150	25.8	Approve up to £2,550
Grant ref 1371 Second Time Around CIC	Second Time Around Re- launch	4,796	4,796	25	Approve up to £1,652
Grant ref 1376 Sacred Heart Church Loughborough	Warm hubs project	5,000	5,000	25	Approve up to £2,000 (and refer the balance requested for consideration in Cost of Living fund)
Grant ref 1374 Thurcaston and Cropston Gardening Club	Annual Craft and Produce Show 2023	500	850	23.4	Approve up to £500
Grant ref 1379 The Coffee Shop, Birstall Methodist Church	Warm spaces project	3,250	3,250	23.4	Approve up to £1,500 (and refer the balance requested for consideration in Cost of Living fund)

Grant ref 1385 Upstarts Gymnastics Club	Gym raised pits with soft landing areas	4,000	4,500	27.4	Decline
Grant ref 1375 New Life Community Church	Family worker to support foodbank clients	2,000	4,400	24.6	Decline (to be referred for consideration in Cost of Living fund)
Grant ref 1377 Nanpantan Ward Residents Group	Running costs and maintenance/enhancement of rose beds	560	560	23.8	Decline
Grant ref 1370 Steps Conductive Education Centre	Centre Manager Salary	5,000	31,365	23.4	Decline
Grant ref 1388 Act One Youth Theatre	2023 Musical Show	3,000	13,350	23.4	Decline
Grant ref 1389 Mind For You Ltd	Dementia Activity Directory	4,960	4,960	22.5	Decline
Grant ref 1384 Loughborough Town Cricket Club	Core running costs / utilities	1,500	4,283	22.4	Decline (to be referred for consideration in Cost of Living fund)
Grant ref 1369 The Mason Foundation	"The community mile"	3,000	6,000	18.2	Decline

Grant ref 1373 Twenty Twenty	Love4Life Project	5,000	6,538	18.2	Decline
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**Charnwood Borough Council**

**Equality Impact Assessment  
'Knowing the needs of your customers and employees'**

■ **Background**

An Equality Impact Assessment is an improvement tool. It will assist you in ensuring that you have thought about the needs and impacts of your service/policy/function in relation to the protected characteristics. It enables a systematic approach to identifying and recording gaps and actions.

■ **Legislation- Equality Duty**

As a local authority that provides services to the public, Charnwood Borough Council has a legal responsibility to ensure that we can demonstrate having paid due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance Equality of Opportunity
- Foster good relations

For the following protected characteristics:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Marriage and civil partnership
5. Pregnancy and maternity
6. Race
7. Religion or belief
8. Sex (Gender)
9. Sexual orientation

What is prohibited?

1. Direct Discrimination
2. Indirect Discrimination
3. Harassment
4. Victimisation
5. Discrimination by association
6. Discrimination by perception
7. Pregnancy and maternity discrimination
8. Discrimination arising from disability
9. Failing to make reasonable adjustments

■ **Step 1 – Introductory information**

Title of the policy	Community Grant and Community Facilities Grant.
Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Verity Graham
Date EIA started	October 2022
Date EIA completed	October 2022

■ **Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:**

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)
<p>Charnwood Borough Council recognises the value and contribution of individuals, voluntary sector organisations and other community-led projects and the benefits they provide to the residents of Charnwood.</p> <p>Through our Charnwood grant schemes we provide a range of grants to help these organisations, groups and individuals access the funding support they need.</p> <p>Cabinet considers applications for funding for the Community Facilities Capital Grants and the Charnwood Community grants Scheme twice a year.</p> <p>It is the Councils aim to ensure the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p>
What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?
<p>It is the Councils aim to ensure that the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals/ residents across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Analysis is therefore undertaken to ensure that the grants are distributed in a reasonable and proportionate manner.</p>
Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?
<p>Evaluation takes place on successful applications to analyse whether there any gaps with regards to the protected characteristics in order to ensure the grants process is fair and equal to all. In particular analysis is undertaken to determine any barriers which may prevent specific community groups/ communities of interest from successfully applying or even applying at all</p>

to Charnwood Grants. The VCS Development officers also undertake consultation with a range of VCS organisations.

■ **Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps**

List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.

Data/information such as:

- Consultation
- Previous Equality Impact Assessments
- Demographic information
- Anecdotal and other evidence

Analysis of previous Community Development & Engagement Grants, Loughborough Grants, VCS Covid-19 Recovery grants and Community Facilities Grants over the past few years

What does this information / data tell you about diverse groups? If you do not hold or have access to any data/information on diverse groups, what do you need to begin collating / monitoring? (Please list)

The analysis of grants data shows that a wide range of groups access the available funding and have supported a diverse range and have covered the protected characteristics of age, disability, Race, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The data in the main shows that the groups / organisations supported have no specific protected characteristic identified and are available for the wider community to access.

It is acknowledged that some of the approved grants are towards projects which support individuals with multiple characteristics and those projects supporting the wider community have a wide range of beneficiaries.

■ **Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?**

In light of the answers you have given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not please explain why.

Further equalities monitoring may be required for those projects which have applied and are deemed unsuccessful in order to identify any further issues or potential barriers.

However, at this stage of analysis it is felt the information currently held is sufficient to analysis trends and determine any barriers or negative impacts.

■ **Step 5 – Assessing the impact**

In light of any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge and awareness, please identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups (including what barriers these individuals or groups may face) who identify with any 'protected characteristics' and provide an explanation for your decision (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Age</b>	There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to Age. Of the grants awarded, there is a reasonable proportionate spread between projects for older and younger people. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Age.
<b>Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)</b>	There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to disability. In addition, it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. Therefore, creating further positive impacts for people with disabilities. The process has therefore created a positive impact overall in relation to the protected characteristic of Disability.
<b>Gender Reassignment (Transgender)</b>	No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Gender Reassignment. The impact of this is neutral as there have been no applications to date. However, it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place where specific support groups etc. meet for further awareness raising.
<b>Race</b>	There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Race. In additional it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics.
<b>Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)</b>	Whilst Charnwood Grants do not specifically support religious groups / activities, it does provide funding to



	<p>these groups who are delivering activities for the wider community.</p> <p>The impact is therefore neutral with regards to the protected characteristic of religion or belief with the acknowledged that wider benefits are created for the wider community.</p>
<b>Sex (Gender)</b>	<p>There is no specific grant funding awarded to projects relating to Gender. In addition, however, it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross-cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Gender.</p>
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	<p>No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Sexual Orientation. The impact of this is neutral as there have been no applications to date. However, it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place where specific support groups etc. meet for further awareness raising.</p>
<b>Other protected groups (Pregnancy &amp; maternity, marriage &amp; civil partnership)</b>	<p>There has been some grant funding awarded to projects relating to these other protected groups, therefore the impact is positive. In addition, it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross-cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. Additional targeted promotional work will be undertaken.</p>
<b>Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)</b>	<p>The grants which focus on the wider community have a wide range of benefits, particularly for residents from priority neighbourhoods or areas of deprivation and hard to reach sectors of the community.</p>

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

Please note:

- a) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- b) Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

No negative impacts or potential barriers have been identified. However, it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place for the protected characteristics of Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity and Sexual Orientation.

Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Charnwood Borough Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

It is the opinion that the Charnwood Community grants scheme and the Community Facilities Grant scheme comply with Charnwood Borough Council's equality and diversity responsibilities. It will further promote equal opportunities and achieve positive outcomes.

■ **Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation and review**

Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?

Monitoring will continue on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are successful. Continuous monitoring and analysis will aim to identify gaps which may potentially highlight barriers or negative impacts towards specific community groups/ communities of interest.

Further equalities monitoring will be explored for those projects which have applied and are deemed unsuccessful, for the further identification of issues or potential barriers.

How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes?

e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.

Where barriers/ negative impacts are identified, the mitigating action and progress against this will be included within the relevant service plan.

■ **Step 7- Action Plan**


**Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan:**

**The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan**

Reference Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date
001	Continue to monitor the Grants on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are both successful and unsuccessful.	Verity Graham	March 2023

■ **Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?**

	<b>Who needs to know</b> (Please tick)	<b>How they will be informed</b> (we have a legal duty to publish EIA's)
<b>Employees</b>	✓	This EIA will be published on the Council's website.
<b>Service users</b>	✓	
<b>Partners and stakeholders</b>	✓	
<b>Others</b>	✓	
<b>To ensure ease of access, what other communication needs/concerns are there?</b>	✓	

<b>Please delete as appropriate</b>
<b>I agree with this assessment / action plan</b>
<b>If <i>disagree</i>, state action/s required, reasons and details of who is to carry them out with timescales: N/A</b>
<b>Signed (Service Head): Peter Oliver</b> 
<b>Date: 31.10.2022</b>

[Please send completed & signed assessment to Vicky Brackenbury for publishing.](#)

## CABINET – 17TH NOVEMBER 2022

### Report of the Strategic Director – Commercial and Economic Development Lead Member: Cllr Tom Barkley

#### Part A

#### AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACT

##### Purpose of Report

This report requests approval and delegated authority to enter into an electricity supply contract with the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) for the period September 2024 to September 2028.

##### Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve entry into an Electricity Supply Contract with ESPO for the period of October 2024 to September 2028.
2. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director – Commercial and Economic Development to finalise the agreement and formally enter the Council into Contract.

##### Reasons

1. To continue to obtain favourable pricing for electricity supply for the Council's estate in light of a volatile energy market.
2. To allow for the timely completion of contract to avoid contract lapse.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Council requires energy supply (i.e. electricity and gas supply) to deliver services to residents of the Borough. This decision relates to the continuation of that supply under a complaint framework procurement.

The Council has a duty to obtain best value in all financial related matters as well as to purchase goods and services in a manner compliant with Procurement Regulations in effect at the time that any procurement is undertaken.

The Council has been in energy supply contracts with ESPO, a professional buying organisation (PBO) for many years prior to this decision. This is an extension of a contract under a UK procurement regulation complaint framework.

The Council's gas supply contract with ESPO was renewed on 24 February 2022 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027 by delegated decision under special urgency provisions taken by the Strategic Director – Commercial Development, Assets and Leisure (DD029 2022 reported to full Council on 25 April 2022).

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The decision will come into effect immediately (subject to Call-in).

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

*Financial Implications*

The exact financial implications cannot be stated at this time. The future price of energy is currently unpredictable, given the state of global events and the uncertainty of supply as a result of the conflict in the Ukraine. However, the forward purchasing methodology used by ESPO allows future energy supplies to be purchased at a price advantageous point and fixed to avoid large price fluctuations in the market. This, in turn, minimises impact and smooths pricing to allow for consistent budgeting.

The current budgeted impact of electricity costs for financial year 2022/2023 is £840,000.

*Risk Management*

The risks associated with the decision Cabinet is asked to make and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Best value is not achieved	Unlikely (2)	Low (1)	Low (2)	The nature of forward purchasing allows ESPO to forward purchase when supply costs are low and then pass those savings onto member Councils. This approach has protected the Council from the current energy price risks currently facing client buyers without such an agreement.

*Equality and Diversity*

No implications

*Crime and Disorder*

No implications

*Sustainability*

Electricity purchased under contract in this agreement will be from renewable sources.

Key Decision: Yes – while the entire value of the contract cannot yet be defined, it is certain that it will exceed the key decision threshold of £150,000 over the life of the contract.

Background Papers: None

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## Part B

### Background

1. Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) is a public sector owned professional buying organisation (PBO), specialising in providing a wide range of goods and services to the public sector, one of which is energy supply.
2. The Council have been largely protected from the turmoil in the UK energy markets over the last 12 months by virtue of its existing gas and electricity supply contracts with ESPO, who forward purchased large quantities of the gas & electricity on behalf of customers.
6. Despite the inevitable increases in energy costs, the evidence to date shows the value of contracting energy supply via ESPOs energy forward purchasing framework in helping dampen the fluctuations in market pricing and avoiding some of the peaks in charges currently faced by households and businesses.
7. ESPO are able to mitigate price shocks due to the way that it purchases energy, i.e. in advance when market prices are favourable and by negotiating fixed profit levels on purchases from the nominated supplier. ESPO along with others PBOs are currently cooperating in analysis of the energy market fluctuation and in the forward purchase of energy with all PBOs achieving largely the same price levels for customers.
3. The current gas rates are approximately 75% cheaper than the current wholesale market rates and are valid until 31 March 2023 (*The Council's gas consumption in the 2021 calendar year was £145,231.18*).
4. The Council will experience a 200% increase in gas billing charges from 1st April 2023 (forecasted to be billed at 7.49 pence per kilowatt hour but subject to some market variability). These rates are less than the price rises affecting the household market and those business not in forward purchasing agreements.
5. The Council's gas supply contract was renewed on 24 February 2022 for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2027 by delegated decision under special urgency provisions taken by the Strategic Director – Commercial Development, Assets and Leisure (DD029 2022 reported to full Council on 25 April 2022). This decision has protected the Council from the worst of gas price fluctuations to date and will continue to soften the extreme pricing movements in wholesale markets in the future. Prices over the life of the contract are not fixed and can both rise and fall.

### Current situation

6. The Council's current electricity rates have doubled since 1 October 2022 for electricity (forecasted to be billed at 20.31 pence per kilowatt hour but subject to

market fluctuations). This increase is far less than the price rises affecting the household market and those business not in forward purchasing agreements. As part of the forward purchasing strategy, ESPO have already purchased much of the energy the Council will use in the following 12 month periods to further protect our budgets.

7. The decision to which this paper relates is to enter into a forward purchase agreement for electricity for the period of October 2024 to September 2028. As with the renewal of gas contracts in February 2022, this is a protective measure to secure supplies over the period at better than market rates by purchase in advance via ESPO.
8. Although the Council's current electricity contract does not end until 30 September 2024, ESPO will commence purchasing electricity for the 2024/2025 period from early 2023. ESPO purchases up to 18 months of supply period in advance. Therefore, the agreement means that the Council's volumes will be included in these purchases to enable the Council to continue to benefit from a larger purchasing volume that will leverage more favourable pricing. Failure to renew by 31 January 2023 means that the Council will not be included in the prime basket and as a result will face higher prices than those in the agreement.
9. Electricity purchased from this framework will be from renewable sources



## **CABINET – 17TH NOVEMBER 2022**

### **Report of the Head of Finance Lead Member: Councillor Tom Barkley**

#### **Part A**

#### TREASURY MANAGEMENT UPDATE – MID-YEAR REVIEW FOR THE 6 MONTHS APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2022

##### Purpose of Report

This report reviews the Treasury Management Strategy and the Annual Investment Strategy, plus the various Prudential Borrowing and Treasury Indicators for the first six months of 2022/23.

##### Recommendation

That it be recommended to Council to note this mid-year review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Borrowing and Treasury Indicators plus the Annual Investment Strategy, as set out in Part B.

##### Reason

To ensure that the Council's governance and management procedures for Treasury Management reflect best practice and comply with the Revised CIPFA Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice, Guidance Notes and Treasury Management Policy Statement, that funding of capital expenditure is taken within the totality of the Council's financial position, and that borrowing and Investment is only carried out with proper regard to the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Capital Strategy including the Treasury Management Strategy, Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Prudential & Treasury Indicators must be approved by Council each year and reviewed half yearly. This review is set out in the attached report as Part B. The Strategy for the year was approved by Council on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

This report will be presented to Cabinet on 17th November 2022 for onward recommendation to the full Council meeting of 23rd January 2023.

The report is available for scrutiny by the Scrutiny Commission at the regular meeting scheduled for 14th November 2022 if required.

##### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

### *Financial Implications*

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### *Risk Management*

There are no direct risks arising from the recommendation in this report. Risks associated with the Treasury Policy, etc. and in general are set out within Part B.

Key Decision: No

Background Papers: None

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## **Part B**

### **1. Background**

#### **1.1 Capital Strategy**

In December 2017, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA), issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. As from 2019/20, all local authorities have been required to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following: -

a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services.

an overview of how the associated risk is managed.

the implications for future financial sustainability.

#### **1.2 Treasury Management**

The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.

The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

Accordingly, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”.

#### **1.3 Regulatory framework**

This report has been written in accordance with the requirements of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2017).

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.

2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the full council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement
  - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report, (stewardship report), covering activities during the previous year.
4. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
5. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is Audit Committee:

This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice on Treasury Management, and covers the following:

1. An economic update for the first part of the 2022/23 financial year;
2. A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
3. The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
4. A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2022/23;
5. A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2022/23;
6. A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2022/23;
7. A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23.

## 2. Economic and Interest Rate Scenario

### 2.1 Economics update

It may be noted that this report was drafted in a period where high levels of volatility were being experienced in the financial markets, and projections set out in the report may become rapidly outdated. Day to day operational decisions however, do take into account the latest information available.

- The second quarter of 2022/23 saw:
  - GDP revised upwards in Q1 2022/23 to +0.2% q/q from -0.1%, which means the UK economy has avoided recession for the time being;
  - Signs of economic activity losing momentum as production fell due to rising energy prices;
  - CPI inflation ease to 9.9% y/y in August, having been 9.0% in April, but domestic price pressures showing little sign of abating in the near-term;
  - The unemployment rate fall to a 48-year low of 3.6% due to a large shortfall in labour supply;
  - Bank Rate rise by 100bps over the quarter, taking Bank Rate to 2.25% with further rises to come;
  - Gilt yields surge and sterling fall following the “fiscal event” of the new Prime Minister and Chancellor on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
- The UK economy grew by 0.2% q/q in Q1 2022/23, though revisions to historic data left it below pre-pandemic levels.
- There are signs of higher energy prices creating more persistent downward effects in economic activity. Both industrial production (-0.3% m/m) and construction output (-0.8% m/m) fell in July 2022 for a second month in a row. Although some of this was probably due to the heat wave at the time, manufacturing output fell in some of the most energy intensive sectors (e.g., chemicals), pointing to signs of higher energy prices weighing on production. With the drag on real activity from high inflation having grown in recent months, GDP is at risk of contracting through the autumn and winter months.
- The fall in the composite PMI from 49.6 in August to a 20-month low preliminary reading of 48.4 in September points to a fall in GDP of around 0.2% q/q in Q3 and consumer confidence is at a record low. Retail sales volumes fell by 1.6% m/m in August, which was the ninth fall in 10 months. That left sales volumes in August just 0.5% above their pre-Covid level and 3.3% below their level at the start of the year. There are also signs that households are spending their excess savings in response to high prices. Indeed, cash in households’ bank accounts rose by £3.2bn in August, which was below the £3.9bn rise in July and much smaller than the 2019 average monthly rate of £4.6bn.
- The labour market remained exceptionally tight. Data for July and August provided further evidence that the weaker economy is leading to a cooling in labour demand. Labour Force Survey (LFS) employment rose by 40,000 in the three months to July (the smallest rise since February). But a renewed rise in inactivity of 154,000 over the same period meant that the unemployment rate fell from 3.8% in June to a new 48-year low of 3.6%. The single-month data showed that inactivity rose by 354,000 in July itself and there are now 904,000 more inactive people aged 16+ compared to before the pandemic in February 2020.

The number of vacancies has started to level off from recent record highs but there have been few signs of a slowing in the upward momentum on wage growth. Indeed, in July, the 3my/y rate of average earnings growth rose from 5.2% in June to 5.5%.

- CPI inflation eased from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August, though inflation has not peaked yet. The easing in August was mainly due to a decline in fuel prices reducing fuel inflation from 43.7% to 32.1%. And with the oil price now just below \$90pb, we would expect to see fuel prices fall further in the coming months.
- However, utility price inflation is expected to add 0.7% to CPI inflation in October when the Ofgem unit price cap increases to, typically, £2,500 per household (prior to any benefit payments). But, as the government has frozen utility prices at that level for two years, energy price inflation will fall sharply after October and have a big downward influence on CPI inflation.
- Nonetheless, the rise in services CPI inflation from 5.7% y/y in July to a 30-year high of 5.9% y/y in August suggests that domestic price pressures are showing little sign of abating. A lot of that is being driven by the tight labour market and strong wage growth. CPI inflation is expected to peak close to 10.4% in November and, with the supply of workers set to remain unusually low, the tight labour market will keep underlying inflationary pressures strong until early next year.
- During H1 2022, there has been a change of both Prime Minister and Chancellor. The new team (Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng) have made a step change in government policy. The government's huge fiscal loosening from its proposed significant tax cuts will add to existing domestic inflationary pressures and will potentially leave a legacy of higher interest rates and public debt. Whilst the government's utility price freeze, which could cost up to £150bn (5.7% of GDP) over 2 years, will reduce peak inflation from 14.5% in January next year to 10.4% in November this year, the long list of tax measures announced at the "fiscal event" adds up to a loosening in fiscal policy relative to the previous government's plans of £44.8bn (1.8% of GDP) by 2026/27. These included the reversal of April's national insurance tax on 6<sup>th</sup> November, the cut in the basic rate of income tax from 20p to 19p in April 2023, the cancellation of next April's corporation tax rise, the cut to stamp duty and the removal of the 45p tax rate, although the 45p tax rate cut announcement has already been reversed.
- Fears that the government has no fiscal anchor on the back of these announcements has meant that the pound has weakened again, adding further upward pressure to interest rates. Whilst the pound fell to a record low of \$1.035 on the Monday following the government's "fiscal event", it has since recovered to around \$1.12. That is due to hopes that the Bank of England will deliver a very big rise in interest rates at the policy meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the government will lay out a credible medium-term plan in the near term. This was originally expected as part of the fiscal statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> November but has subsequently been moved forward to an expected release date in October. Nevertheless, with concerns over a global recession growing, there are downside risks to the pound.
- The MPC has now increased interest rates seven times in as many meetings in 2022 and has raised rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis. Even so, coming after the Fed and ECB raised rates by 75 basis points (bps) in their most recent meetings, the Bank of England's latest 50 basis points hike looks relatively dovish. However, the UK's status as a large importer of

commodities, which have jumped in price, means that households in the UK are now facing a much larger squeeze on their real incomes.

- Since the fiscal event on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, we now expect the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to increase interest rates further and faster, from 2.25% currently to a peak of 5.00% in February 2023. The combination of the government's fiscal loosening, the tight labour market and sticky inflation expectations means we expect the MPC to raise interest rates by 100bps at the policy meetings in November (to 3.25%) and 75 basis points in December (to 4%) followed by further 50 basis point hikes in February and March (to 5.00%). Market expectations for what the MPC will do are volatile. If Bank Rate climbs to these levels the housing market looks very vulnerable, which is one reason why the peak in our forecast is lower than the peak of 5.50% - 5.75% priced into the financial markets at present.
- Throughout 2022/23, gilt yields have been on an upward trend. They were initially caught up in the global surge in bond yields triggered by the surprisingly strong rise in CPI inflation in the US in May. The rises in two-year gilt yields (to a peak of 2.37% on 21st June) and 10-year yields (to a peak of 2.62%) took them to their highest level since 2008 and 2014 respectively. However, the upward trend was exceptionally sharply at the end of September as investors demanded a higher risk premium and expected faster and higher interest rate rises to offset the government's extraordinary fiscal stimulus plans. The 30-year gilt yield rose from 3.60% to 5.10% following the "fiscal event", which threatened financial stability by forcing pension funds to sell assets into a falling market to meet cash collateral requirements. In response, the Bank did two things. First, it postponed its plans to start selling some of its quantitative easing (QE) gilt holdings until 31<sup>st</sup> October. Second, it committed to buy up to £65bn of long-term gilts to "restore orderly market conditions" until 14<sup>th</sup> October. In other words, the Bank is restarting QE, although for financial stability reasons rather than monetary policy reasons.
- Since the Bank's announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> September, the 30-year gilt yield has fallen back from 5.10% to 3.83%. The 2-year gilt yield dropped from 4.70% to 4.30% and the 10-year yield fell back from 4.55% to 4.09%.
- There is a possibility that the Bank continues with QE at the long-end beyond 14<sup>th</sup> October or it decides to delay quantitative tightening beyond 31<sup>st</sup> October, even as it raises interest rates. So far at least, investors seem to have taken the Bank at its word that this is not a change in the direction of monetary policy nor a step towards monetary financing of the government's deficit. But instead, that it is a temporary intervention with financial stability in mind.
- After a shaky start to the year, the S&P 500 and FTSE 100 climbed in the first half of Q2 2022/23 before falling to their lowest levels since November 2020 and July 2021 respectively. The S&P 500 is 7.2% below its level at the start of the quarter, whilst the FTSE 100 is 5.2% below it as the fall in the pound has boosted the value of overseas earnings in the index. The decline has, in part, been driven by the rise in global real yields and the resulting downward pressure on equity valuations as well as concerns over economic growth leading to a deterioration in investor risk appetite.

## **2.2 Interest rate forecasts**

The Council has appointed Link Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts

below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.

The latest forecast on 27<sup>th</sup> September sets out a view that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some little while, as the Bank of England seeks to squeeze inflation out of the economy, whilst the government is providing a package of fiscal loosening to try and protect households and businesses from the ravages of ultra-high wholesale gas and electricity prices.

The increase in PWLB rates reflects a broad sell-off in sovereign bonds internationally but more so the disaffection investors have with the position of the UK public finances after September's "fiscal event". To that end, the MPC has tightened short-term interest rates with a view to trying to slow the economy sufficiently to keep the secondary effects of inflation – as measured by wage rises – under control, but its job is that much harder now.

Our PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate (the standard rate minus 20 bps, calculated as gilts plus 80bps) which has been accessible to most authorities since 1<sup>st</sup> November 2012.

Link Group Interest Rate View	27.09.22											
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
BANK RATE	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.50
3 month ave earnings	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.70	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.60	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60
12 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.00	4.70	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
10 yr PWLB	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
25 yr PWLB	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.50	4.30	4.10	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40
50 yr PWLB	4.80	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.10

### 3. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy

#### 3.1 Update

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement, (TMSS), for 2022/23 was approved by this Council on 21st February 2022. There are no changes in this report to the TMSS since 21st February 2022 Council in the light of economic and operational movements during the year.

To note the current Operational Boundary borrowing limits and the Authorised limits are part of the prudential guidelines and these remain as they were previously reported.

The Operational Boundary is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be similar to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under borrowing by other cash resources.



<i>Operational boundary</i>	<i>2022/23 Estimate £'000</i>	<i>2023/24 Estimate £'000</i>	<i>2024/25 Estimate £'000</i>
Debt	108,090	108,090	108,090
Non-financial investments	28,000	28,000	28,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>136,090</b>	<b>136,090</b>	<b>136,090</b>

A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is **the Authorised Limit** which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

<i>Authorised limit</i>	<i>2022/23 Estimate £'000</i>	<i>2023/24 Estimate £'000</i>	<i>2024/25 Estimate £'000</i>
Debt	130,000	130,000	130,000
Non-financial investments	28,000	28,000	28,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>148,000</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>158,000</b>

#### **4. The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)**

This part of the report is structured to update:

- The Council's capital expenditure plans;
- How these plans are being financed;
- The impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow; and
- Compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

##### **4.1 Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure**

This table shows the revised estimates for capital expenditure and the changes since the capital programme was agreed at the Budget.

<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>Full Year Budget £'000</b>	<b>Actual Spend 31/9/2022 £'000</b>	<b>Variance 31/9/2022 £'000</b>
Bedford Square	1,868	1,201	667
Enterprise Zone	13,000	0	13,000
Regeneration Scheme	15,000	0	15,000
Town Deal Schemes	2,970	0	2,970
Shepshed Public Realm	1,065	13	1,052
Carbon Neutral	1,095	0	1,095
DFG Grant	2,496	91	2,405
Other General Fund schemes	4,051	629	3,422
<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>41,546</b>	<b>1,935</b>	<b>39,611</b>
<b>HRA</b>	<b>12,034</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>11,265</b>
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>53,580</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>50,876</b>

The Actual Capital spend is slow for the first half of the year, with an underspend on General Fund £39.6m of which £28m relates to provisional Regeneration and Enterprise Zone Schemes should an opportunity arise in this year and the next 2 years. A large amount of HRA new contracts commence September 2022. Capital monitoring is reported to Finance and Performance Scrutiny each July, October, January and an outturn report each year.

## 4.2 Financing of the Capital Programme

The table below draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans (above), highlighting the original supported and unsupported elements of the capital programme, and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing need may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

<b>Capital Expenditure Finance By:-</b>	<b>£'000</b>
S106 Funding	1,059
Other External Funding	7,520
RCCO	5
Capital Receipts	4,714
External Borrowing	28,000
Reinvestment Reserve	33
Capital Plan Reserve	214
<b>Total GF Funding</b>	<b>41,546</b>
HRA S106 Funding	1
HRA Financing Fund/MRR	10,862
HRA Capital Receipts	1,171
<b>Total HRA Funding</b>	<b>12,034</b>
<b>Over Total Funding</b>	<b>53,580</b>

## 4.3 Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), External Debt and the Operational Boundary

The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period, which is termed the Operational Boundary.

### Prudential Indicator – Capital Financing Requirement

We are on target to achieve the original forecast Capital Financing Requirement.

<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>2021/22 Actual £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 Original Budget £'000</b>	<b>2023/24 Original Budget £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 Original Budget £'000</b>
CFR - (Fleet-Less MRP)	2,086	1,788	1,490	1,192
CFR – (Commercial Activities Less MRP)	22,716	22,422	22,119	21,806
CFR – (Regeneration Less MRP)	0	15,000	14,810	14,614
CFR - (Enterprise Zone - No MRP)	0	13,000	13,000	13,000
CFR – (HRA No MRP)	81,820	81,820	81,820	81,820
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>106,622</b>	<b>134,030</b>	<b>133,239</b>	<b>132,432</b>
<b>Movement in CFR represented by:</b>		(27,408)	791	807
Net financing need for the year (above)	0	28,000	0	0
Less MRP charge	(583)	(592)	(791)	(807)
<b>Movement in CFR</b>	<b>(583)</b>	<b>27,408</b>	<b>(791)</b>	<b>(807)</b>

The current MRP policy is that a full years MRP will be made in the year after capital expenditure has incurred and when the assets are fully operational. MRP charged £583k for 2021/22 based on the assets purchased in 2020/21, annual MRP charges will be made based on the table above.

#### 4.4 Limits to Borrowing Activity

The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose. Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2021/22 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.

	<b>2021/22 Actual £'000</b>	<b>2022/23 Estimate £'000</b>	<b>2023/24 Estimate £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 Estimate £'000</b>
External Debt at 1 April	81,190	81,190	81,190	81,190
Expected change in Debt	0	28,000	28,000	28,000
<b>Actual debt at 31 March</b>	<b>81,190</b>	<b>109,190</b>	<b>109,190</b>	<b>109,190</b>
Capital Financing Requirement	106,622	134,030	133,239	132,432
<b>Under borrowing</b>	<b>25,432</b>	<b>24,840</b>	<b>24,049</b>	<b>23,242</b>

## 5. Annual Investment Strategy

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice, it sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the Council's risk appetite. In the current economic climate, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information.

### Creditworthiness

Following the Government's fiscal event on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, both S&P and Fitch have placed the UK sovereign debt rating on Negative Outlook, reflecting a downside bias to the current ratings in light of expectations of weaker finances and the economic outlook.

### Investment Counterparty criteria

The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function OR *insert any changes to the criteria you wish to make, with supporting criteria.*

### CDS prices

It is noted that sentiment in the current economic climate can easily shift, so it remains important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances.

### Investment balances

The internal investment balance at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 is £54m. Internal investments portfolio yield for the first 6 months of the year is 1.21% (0.18% 2021/22) against a benchmark 90 day backward looking Sonia rate 0.91%, the performance exceeded the benchmark. Actual Internal investment Income 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 earned £310k.

The interest & rental income earned by the Council's £5m External Property Funds' Lothbury & Hermes investments as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 is £92k net return 1.4% (£92.5k 2021/22 net return 1.58%) This is a good rate of return for this half year in comparison to internal investment rate of 1.21% and 12 months backward Sonia rate 0.37%.

The original valuation of Lothbury Property Investment was £2.417m and for the first half of 2022/23 the value is £2.631m overall valuation increase of £214k to date.

The original valuation of Hermes Property Investment was £2.5m and for the first half of 2022/23 the value is £2.683m overall valuation increase £184k to date.

In summary, the Council's budgeted annual investment return for 2022/23 is £300k, the total interest earned to date is £402k including Property Funds to date. (£387k in 2021/22), given the Council has been able to take advantage of the increased interest rates on some investments the actual investment income has outperformed the budget to date.

The Head of Finance confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first 6 months of 2022/23.

## **6. Borrowing**

The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2022/23 is £134,030m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions; however, Table 4.4 shows the Council has actual borrowings in 2022/23 of £81,190m, this is £2m of an external loan which matures in 2024 and £79,190m HRA Debt, and has utilised £24,210m of cashflow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost-effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that any upside risk to gilt yields prevails.

### **PWLB maturity certainty rates (gilts plus 80bps) year to date to 30th September 2022**

Gilt yields and PWLB rates were on a generally rising trend throughout H1 2022, the exception being a short rally in gilts in July/August. However, they rose exceptionally sharply towards the end of September.

The 50-year PWLB target certainty rate for new long-term borrowing started 2022/23 at 2.20% and finished the half year at 4.80%. It is not clear at this stage whether this would represent a peak rate, and at what point rates could be expected to fall.

### **PWLB maturity certainty rates year to date to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Gilt yields and PWLB rates were on a rising trend between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> September.

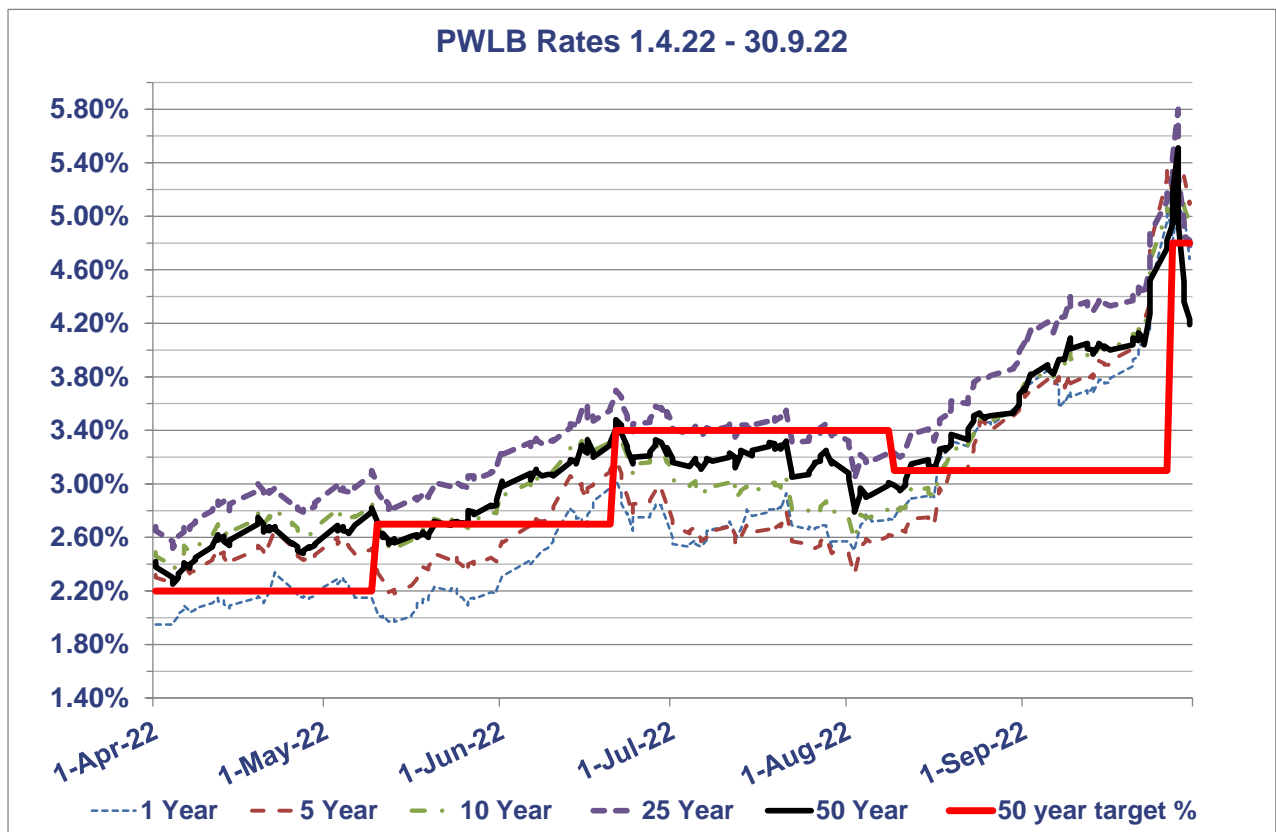
The 50-year PWLB target certainty rate for new long-term borrowing started 2022/23 at 2.20% before increasing to 4.80% in September. It is anticipated that further borrowing will not be undertaken during this financial year.

Due to the overall financial position and the underlying need to borrow for capital purposes (the CFR), no new external borrowing has been undertaken. The capital programme is being kept under regular review due to the effects of inflationary pressures, shortages of materials and labour. Our borrowing strategy will,

therefore, also be regularly reviewed and then revised, if necessary, in order to achieve optimum value and risk exposure in the long-term.

## 7. Debt Rescheduling

Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate given the consequent structure of interest rates and following the increase in the margin added to gilt yields which has impacted PWLB new borrowing rates since October 2010. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken to date in the current financial year. No new external borrowing was undertaken during the half year.



## Appendices

Appendix 1: Portfolio of investments as at 30th September 2022

Appendix 2: Approved countries for investments as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Appendix 3: Glossary of Terms

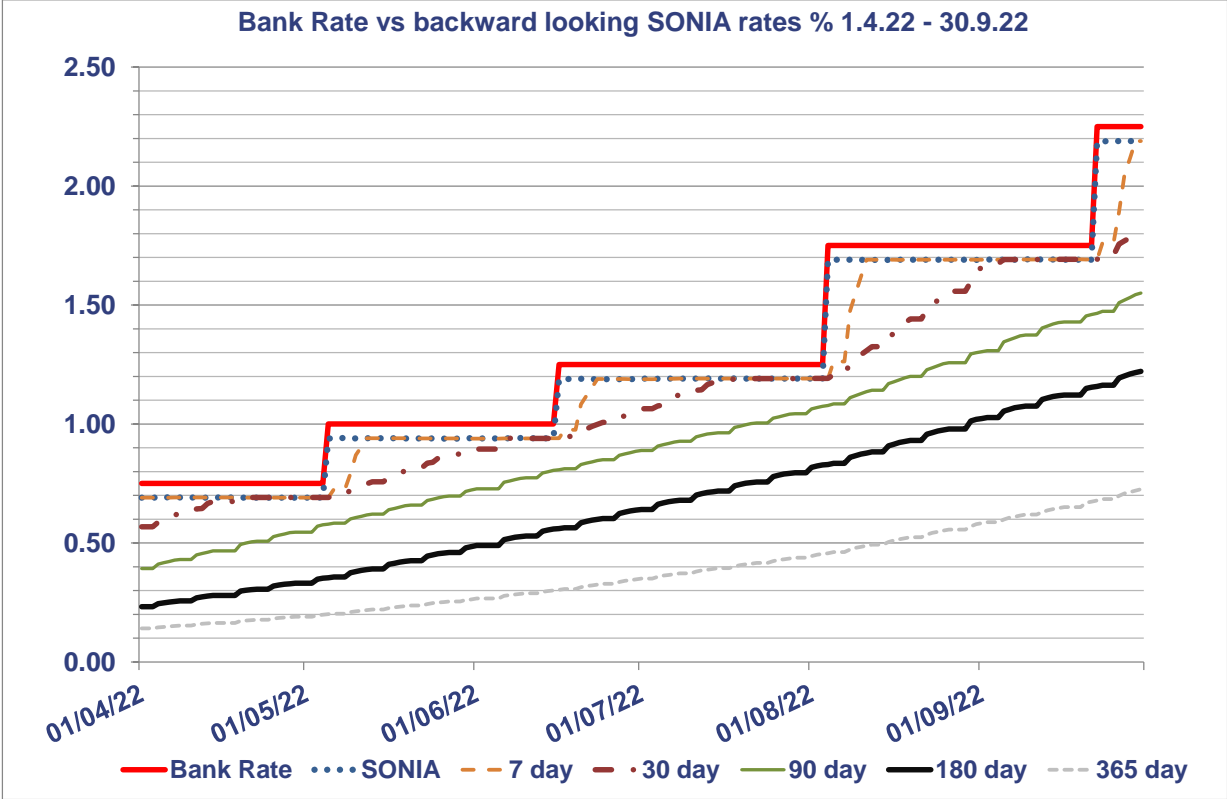
## APPENDIX 1: Investment Portfolio

Investments held as at 30 September 2022	Maturity	£000
SMBC Bank International	13/10/2022	3,000
Standard Chartered Bank - Sustainable Deposit	14/11/2022	3,000
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets	24/01/2023	3,000
Close Brothers	27/01/2023	2,000
HSBC	02/11/2022	4,000
Standard Chartered Bank - Sustainable Deposit	01/11/2022	2,500
HSBC	19/10/2022	5,000
HSBC	23/12/2022	5,000
HSBC	05/10/2022	2,000
Goldman Sachs International Bank	35 Day Notice	2,500
Santander	180 Day Notice	8,000
Federated Money Market Fund	1 Day Notice	10,620
Insight Money Market Fund	1 Day Notice	3,410
<b>Total Managed Internally</b>		<b>54,030</b>
Lothbury Property Fund	n/a	2,500
Hermes Property Fund	n/a	2,500
<b>Total Managed Externally</b>		<b>5,000</b>
<b>TOTAL TREASURY INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>59,030</b>

### Internal Investment performance year to date as at 30 September 2022 (Excludes Property Funds)

Benchmark	Benchmark Return	Council Performance	Investment Interest Earned
3 month	0.91%	1.21%	£310k

QUARTER ENDED 30/9/2022	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 day	30 day	90 day	180 day	365 day
<b>High</b>	2.25	2.19	2.19	1.82	1.55	1.22	0.73
<b>High Date</b>	22/09/2022	30/09/2022	30/09/2022	30/09/2022	30/09/2022	30/09/2022	30/09/2022
<b>Low</b>	0.75	0.69	0.69	0.57	0.39	0.23	0.14
<b>Low Date</b>	01/04/2022	28/04/2022	29/04/2022	01/04/2022	01/04/2022	01/04/2022	01/04/2022
<b>Average</b>	1.28	1.22	1.19	1.11	0.91	0.67	0.37
<b>Spread</b>	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.26	1.16	0.99	0.58





## APPENDIX 2: Approved countries for investments as at 30th September 2022

*Based on lowest available rating*

AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

AA-

- Belgium
- Hong Kong
- Qatar
- **U.K.**

## **APPENDIX 3: Glossary of Terms**

### **Capital Financing Requirement**

CFR is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. It also shows the expected debt position over the period, which is termed the Operational Boundary.

The CFR is simply the total historic outstanding capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of expenditure above, which has not immediately been paid for, will increase the CFR. The CFR does not increase indefinitely, as the minimum revenue provision (MRP) is a statutory annual revenue charge which broadly reduces the indebtedness in line with each assets life, and so charges the economic consumption of capital assets as they are used.

### **Operational Boundary**

The operational boundary is the limit beyond which external debt is not normally expected to exceed. In most cases, this would be a similar figure to the CFR, but may be lower or higher depending on the levels of actual debt and the ability to fund under-borrowing by other cash resources.

### **Authorised Limit for External Debt**

A further key prudential indicator represents a control on the maximum level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003.

### **Gross External Debt**

This is the total amount borrowed by the Council at a point in time.

### **Investments**

The budgeted figure is the estimated average funds available for investment during the year. The actual figure is the total amount invested as at 30th September for Internal Investments and 30<sup>th</sup> June Property Funds.

### **Net Borrowing**

Net borrowing is gross external debt less investments.

### **Loans**

In this mid-year (and previously) interest receivable has exceeded interest payable for the General Fund producing a negative number for net interest payable and a somewhat odd-looking negative ratio; this can be construed as indicating that the Council has no issues servicing General Fund loans at this time.