

CABINET – 18TH NOVEMBER 2021

Report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services

Lead Member: Councillor Leigh Harper-Davies

Part A

ITEM 6 CHARNWOOD GRANTS – ROUND TWO 2021/2022 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 2021/22.

Recommendations

1. That the following Community Grants be awarded:
 - £4,500 to Passion towards the Passion Youth Project;
 - £275 to Charnwood Safe, Well, Happy Partnership towards events, workshops and venue hire;
 - £3,500 to Twenty Twenty towards the Love4Life project;
 - £500 to Ulverscroft Camera Club towards the “Getting back Together” project;
 - £2,500 to Age UK Leics towards Men and Women in Sheds;
 - £2,000 to Molly’s Gift towards a Saturday club for 5-11 year olds;
 - £1,500 to Anand Mangal Group towards room hire and equipment;
 - £2,000 to Shepshed Dolphin Swimming Group towards pool hire and instructor costs;
 - £675 to Charnwood Drawing and Painting Club towards equipment and three workshop sessions;
 - £1,200 to Shree Ram Krishna Community Project towards the exercise element of their Charnwood Dosti project;
 - £500 to Sileby Tennis Club towards sports equipment and marketing;
 - £750 to Birstall Theatre Company towards a production of Aladdin 2022;
 - £700 to Charnwood Arts towards the community elements of the Just Be You project.
 - £750 to Stonebow Washlands Group towards Stonebow Washlands enhancement project, to be funded through the Serco Environmental fund;
 - £1,000 to Barrow in Bloom towards Bloom up Barrow in 2022, to be funded through the Serco Environmental fund;

- £3,000 to Loughborough Wellbeing Centre running costs, to be funded through the Contain Outbreak Management fund allocated to supporting VCS organisations supporting community recovery;
- Up to £2,000 to Leicester City in the Community towards pilot activities/sessions for the Urban Foxes project, to be funded through the Contain Outbreak Management fund to support health and physical activity;

2. That the following Community Grant applications be declined:

- Artspace Loughborough - £5,000 requested – applied for funding towards Into the Outwoods Sculpture Trail 2022;
- Wymeswold Playgroup - £2,827 requested – applied for funding towards Forest School setting;
- Loughborough Air Quality Protection Group - £876 requested – applied for funding towards a 3-year subscription to Community Dashboard;
- Rotary Club of Loughborough Beacon - £5,000 requested – applied for funding towards home starter boxes;
- Mountsorrel Methodist Church - £1,000 requested – applied for funding towards professional cleaning in 2021/22;
- Newtown Linford Tennis Club - £5,000 requested – applied for funding towards facility regeneration;
- Birstall and District Art Society - £2,000 requested – applied for funding towards running costs;
- Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church - £2,500 requested – applied for funding towards cleaning costs to support the community use of premises;
- Emmanuel Church Centre Garden - £1,375 requested – applied for funding towards upgrade and re-planting of flower beds and children's green spaces;
- The Generator Loughborough CIC – £5,000 requested – applied for funding towards the running costs of the Loughborough Generator Project;
- Charnwood Christmas Toy Appeal - £1,500 requested – applied for funding towards the Christmas Toy Appeal 2021;
- Anstey Chess Club - £500 requested – applied for funding towards room hire;
- Syston and District Volunteer Centre - £3,000 requested – applied for funding towards the re-start of their mini-bus;
- Quorn Village CIC - £1,700 requested – applied for funding towards improving a footpath and bridleways in Quorn.

3. That the following Community Facilities Grants be awarded:

- Up to £3,200 to Gorse Covert Community Association towards the provision of an ambient toilet.

4. That the following Community Facilities Grant application be deferred to a future Round;
 - The Generator Loughborough CIC - £20,000 requested – applied for funding towards building works for the Loughborough Generator Project.
5. That the following Community Facilities Grant applications be declined:
 - Girlguiding Birstall - £15,000 requested – applied for funding towards a new Ranger room;
 - Falcon Support Services - £5,000 requested – applied for funding towards window and kitchen floor refurbishment at “The Drop in” day centre;
 - The Bridge (East Midlands) - £10,000 requested – applied for funding towards a new office and drop-in centre at The Foundry, Loughborough.
6. That approval is given to run a third round of Community Facilities Grants in February 2022
7. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services 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 further work to be undertaken with the applicant to see whether the application can be improved and strengthened.
5. To decline to provide financial support to organisations which do not meet the criteria for the award of a grant under the Community Facilities Grant scheme
6. To recognise the large gap between this Community Facilities Grant round and the next proposed round in June 2022 and the need to provide an additional Facilities Grants round for identified projects that were unable to meet this deadline.
7. 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 11th 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.

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 in the 2021/23 Capital Plan for this grants scheme was £150,300, and £20,000 was awarded in Round One 2021/22 leaving a balance of £130,300. Five applications were received for funding in Round Two 2021/22, and one grant was awarded at a total of up to £3,200 by the grants panel, with one deferred and three declined, and therefore the balance remaining for future rounds of the Community Facilities Grants scheme is £127,100.

Community Grant Funding

The 2021/22 budget for Community Grants is £50,000.

The balance remaining for the Community Grants budget after Round One 2021/22 was £20,600. In addition, there was a remaining £1,750 unspent balance of the Serco Environmental funding that has been allocated as part of this Round. Thirty-one

applications were received for funding in Round Two 2021/22 and this report recommends that thirteen applications are supported through the Community Grant scheme totalling £20,600, two further applications were supported through the Serco Environmental Funding as they met the criteria, with fourteen applications declined, leaving a balance of £0.00 in the community grants pot and clears the unspent balance in the Serco Environmental pot.

It was also identified that two of the applications that were received in this Round could be supported through other identified funding, the Contain Outbreak Management fund that has been received to support both VCS organisations that are supporting Covid community recovery and for physical and mental health intervention projects. Officers will liaise with those projects identified.

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: Julie Robinson
 Head of Neighbourhood Services
 01509 634590
julie.robinson@charnwood.gov.uk

Verity Graham
Neighbourhoods & Partnerships Co-ordinator
01509 632516
verity.graham@charnwood.gov.uk

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 11th 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.

It is proposed that the level of score achieved will reflect 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. Five applications were received for the Community Facilities Grants in Round Two for 2021/22. The applications were assessed against the grants criteria and one was recommended for funding, one recommended to be deferred, and three recommended to be declined.

Gorse Covert Community Association – Score 40.8 – Recommendation to award up to £3,200 (50% of the ambient toilet element)

10. Based in the Gorse Covert District Centre, the Community Centre provides easily accessible facilities for a variety of local groups as well as being a venue for meetings, training activities and events. The centre offers a wide range of activities which offer health and well-being and social benefits for local people. They aim to work with other community organisations to develop relevant and meaningful provision to the local community.
11. The Studio and Studio+ facilities were originally developed as a pre-school with toilet facilities for small children. In 2017 the pre-school closed and it was refurbished to enable a broader use. The toilets were replaced with adult

facilities but the cubicles are very small so the application is for funding towards the removal of the existing toilets and replacement with one ambient toilet. An ambient toilet has a doorway that is not wide enough to be considered a disabled access toilet, as it will not fit a wheelchair through the door. However it has other disabled facilities within the toilet. There are a number of groups that use the facility that have users that have impaired physical mobility and this facility would complement the fully accessible disabled toilet.

12. The application is also requesting funding towards the adding of a prep area for tea and coffee making, which will further the use of the Studio as a self-contained area that can be used for small events and discreet social gatherings.
13. The benefits of the project include:
 - The enhancements will enhance the facilities on offer and benefit the users of the centre;
 - More use of the Studio by a variety of groups for different events and activities, therefore benefitting a higher number and more diverse group of people.
14. The application of £3,991 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £7,982.
15. The Panel scored this scheme at 40.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,200 be awarded towards the ambient toilet facilities subject to the applicant providing further quotes, and confirming landlord's consent and timescales.
16. The Panel felt that the application demonstrated a need in terms of the ambient toilet and accessibility for user groups, and that the works will improve the range of facilities available. The Panel identified that the project may be starting before this grant funding period is available, and therefore will request confirmation of the start-date of the toilet refurbishment. It was felt that the prep element of the application would not be eligible and the timescales indicate that this project will have started before the date of Cabinet.

The Generator Loughborough CIC – Score 33.1 – Recommendation to defer to a future Round

17. 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.
18. 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 27th 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.

19. The application of £20,000 is for 0.8% of the total scheme costs of £2,500,000.
20. The panel scored this scheme at 33.1 and recommends that the application be deferred to a future round. The Panel recognised that the start date of the project was outside the terms and conditions of the grants criteria, there was a current large match funding gap whilst outcomes of other external bids were outstanding, and further work was required to provide further detail on the community engagement programme and benefits to the community.
21. The Panel feel that there is still some work to be done to confirm other match funding, that the timing of the application was not right and further evidence of community benefit and how hard to reach groups will be identified and benefit from the project, and for this reason recommend to defer the application to a future Round.

Girlguiding Birstall – Score 24 – Recommendation to decline

22. Girlguiding Birstall has been present in the village for 90 years and always has eight full units, with waiting lists for girls to join. They currently have two Rainbow units, three Brownie units, two Guide units and one Ranger unit along with over 50 volunteers who help with the running of the units. They currently have 145 girls registered with Girlguiding Birstall and over 90% of those live in the Birstall area.
23. The application is for funding towards the rebuilding of their external 'Ranger Room' building, which will offer space for their older members (14-19) to have a space of their own for their weekly meetings. This space will give them an area to make their own, allowing them to focus on their skill development and have a space to grow into confident young women.

The space will also be used for internal and external meetings, and as a breakout room for the younger sections, allowing them to provide better facilities for all of their membership and offering a community space to the local community.

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

"I am happy for this application to go through".

"I am aware Girl Guiding have been talking about this project for a number of years and am pleased to see this progressing. Whilst this does seem a very large sum they are requesting given reduced grant budgets, I'm happy to support this if the funding is available. Girl Guiding do let other groups use their facilities including allowing the use of their main facilities for elections."

“I am happy to support this project.”

25. The application of £15,000 is for 19.3% of the total scheme costs of £77,567.
26. The Panel scored this scheme at 24 and recommends that the application be declined.
27. The application was low scoring, and whilst the Panel could see the benefits for the Rangers, the application lacked any evidence that the building would be used for wider community use and therefore did not really meet the criteria of the scheme.

Falcon Support Services – Not scored – Recommendation to decline

28. Running since 2001, Falcon Support Services is a registered charity with the mission to help vulnerable people transform their lives enabling them to live independently, healthily and positively contribute to their 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 local community.
29. The application is for funding towards the replacement of the windows, which have been causing issues for the residents and service users, and also the replacement of the kitchen floor, which is now a dangerous and in urgent need of replacement. The work will benefit The Falcon Centre/Drop in Service which provides support to anybody that needs it. The drop-in especially is an open service that means anybody that needs any support within the area can access it. In particular rough sleepers, those at risk of losing their home, and those experiencing social isolation.
30. The application of £5,000 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £10,000.
31. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not meeting the criteria of the scheme.
32. The Panel felt that the application for funding was not for a community facility as defined by the criteria of the grants scheme. They felt that although the kitchen helps support the drop-in centre, it doesn't demonstrate direct community use, and in addition the replacement of the windows would not be eligible.

The Bridge (East Midlands) – Not scored – Recommendation to decline

33. The Bridge (East Midlands) objective is to develop sustainable housing solutions for individuals and communities. They do this through their work to

prevent and relieve homelessness, within their wide-ranging services of specialist advice, guidance and support interventions. Through their strategic work and partnership approach, they aim to empower resilient, compassionate communities where individuals thrive in safe and secure homes. They successfully not only support their clients through crisis, but work with the local community to create strong and supportive networks with preventative and relief measures.

34. The Bridge (East Midlands) is relocating to new premises in Loughborough in order to improve community access, reduce the organisation's environmental footprint, and to become more financially effective. This space will be a welcoming, inclusive and aspirational hub of empowering support; taking into account under represented groups by improving accessibility for all. Within this objective, they are requesting funding to facilitate an accessible toilet for clients, which will improve their ease of access for people with disabilities within the space. The space planned is the re-purposing of The Foundry in Loughborough, which is the ground floor of an already existing space. They will utilise the central location to increase the accessibility to their services, and promote and encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking. They are also seeking to fund the new reception space as part of the client facing part of their offices.
35. The application of £10,000 is for 16.7% of the total scheme costs of £60,000.
36. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not meeting the criteria of the scheme.
37. The Panel are supportive of the organisation, however felt that the application wasn't clear and failed to demonstrate how it met the criteria of the scheme for a community facility. The office move would not be eligible. The application indicated how they would be providing community space, but it was unclear as to how suitable this would be considering their core business. In addition, the Panel would have liked to see further quotes and a plan for the building. They would welcome a re-submission of the application in a future round, subject to the application providing evidence of a community facility element.

Community Grant Scheme Applications

38. Thirty-one applications were received for funding in Round Two for 2021/22. Twenty-seven applications have been assessed against the criteria, with four not scored due to not being eligible against the criteria of the scheme. Seventeen applications have been recommended for approval, and fourteen have been recommended for declining.

Passion – Score 29.2 - Recommendation to award up to £4,500

39. Passion engages with roughly 50 young people a week over the services provided, working mainly with young people from Shepshed, with some young people from Loughborough and Mountsorrel. The youth group is an open-door service that helps to empower young people to realise their potential by offering a non-judgemental service that provides opportunities to gain the skills to obtain employment. Issues tackled range 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. The hub also allows the young people and the police to have contact in a mutually acceptable neutral ground forging relationships that help when the police need to deal with unlawful behaviour.

40. Funding is being requested towards the cost of another paid youth worker for 10 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.
41. The benefits of the project include:
 - Provides a safe, inclusive place for young people to socialise and engage in community activities;
 - Empowers young people to realise their potential;
 - Empowers young people to make safe and healthy life choices.
42. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“I am happy to support this application. Passion carried on working as best they could during the pandemic by holding events on the Glenmore Park for the young people who attend. They do a very good job.”

“I also support this application.”
43. The application of £5,000 is for 9.5% of the total project cost of £52,525.
44. The Panel scored this scheme at 29.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £4,500 be awarded.
45. The Panel felt that this was a positive application with strong outcomes in the Shepshed area, where there is no other youth provision. The application was high scoring against the criteria. They have links /partnerships with various agencies and youth work in Mountsorrel. The organisation works with a large number of young people, attendance and engagement is positive and is an identified area of need.

Charnwood Safe, Well, Happy Partnership – Score 28.6 - Recommendation to award up to £275

46. The Charnwood Safe, Well, Happy Partnership is based in Quorn and supports adults with learning disabilities and their families. People who attend are often from Charnwood but others who can access the group are also welcome. The aim of the group is for local organisations, people with learning disabilities and carers to work together to increase activities that help people with learning disabilities to stay safe, well and happy by being active, learning and building relationships with others, having contact with people who can help them, and contributing and being included in their local community.

The group currently has around 15 members and 3 volunteers, one of whom is the chair and one provided by Leicestershire Partnership Trust who support the group. Other support is provided by Active Charnwood and a nurse and speech and language therapist from Leicestershire Partnership Trust.

47. Funding is being requested to run activities, events, workshops and courses such as:

- Opportunities for social interaction and building friendships;
- Physical activities;
- Workshops on health and well-being topics;
- Activities to build communication skills;
- Meeting people from the local community.

48. The benefits of the project include:

- Provides opportunities for being active, learning and building relationships with others;
- Provides contact with people who can help them;
- Enables inclusion in their local community.

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

“While I have not had direct contact with this group, I can see from their website that they have a number of supporters who are important to our local community, particularly Homefield College. I can also see that they have a full and varied calendar of events in and around Quorn and the surrounding villages. I have no hesitation in supporting their application and wish them every success.”

“I have not had direct contact with the group either, but I should like to support their application, and I wish them every success.”

50. The application of £450 is for 44.3% of the total project cost of £1,015.

51. The Panel scored this scheme at 28.6 and recommends that a grant of up to £275 be awarded.

52. The Panel felt that this was a good project, that scored highly against the criteria of the scheme. The Panel identified that only 50% of the members were Charnwood residents, and therefore have taken this into consideration in the amount awarded. The Panel noted that the organisation has strong links with the Council’s Sport and Active Recreation Team and that the organisation is growing in numbers and the project has been targeted well.

Twenty Twenty – Score 27.7 - Recommendation to award up to £3,500

53. Love4Life is a programme of therapeutic and emotional support for the most vulnerable, disadvantaged 11 to 19 year-old girls in Leicestershire and Derbyshire. Established in 2008, Love4Life now works with over 600 girls a year (200 of these are in Charnwood). The project supports girls from the most

deprived areas such as Loughborough Hastings and Loughborough Ashby wards, and those who attend Rawlins Academy, Limehurst Academy, Delisle College, and Woodbrook Vale School. Key outcomes as a result of participation include an increase in self-esteem and lower rates of school exclusions.

54. Funding is being requested towards the cost of a qualified youth worker to support sessions in Charnwood to meet the increase in support for the most vulnerable girls who are struggling with poor mental health and difficulties in re-engaging in education/healthy relationships following extended periods of lockdowns. Sessions will take place in the schools listed above, plus in Fearon Hall and Ashby Road Estate Community Association. A total of 200 sessions will be delivered, supporting approximately 150 girls.
55. The benefits of the project include:
 - Empowers girls to realise their potential;
 - Empowers girls to make safe and healthy life-choices;
 - Improves physical and mental wellbeing;
 - Improves self-esteem and confidence;
 - Empowers girls to re-engage with education.
56. The application of £4,744 is for 100% of the total project cost.
57. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.7 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,500 be awarded.
58. The Panel felt that this was a strong application for a good project and that the organisation has found a sustainable way forward. The Panel noted that the Love4Life project has been successful in their application for lottery funding. The Panel noted their work in schools and queried whether schools should also be contributing something towards the project. The organisation does a great deal of work with schools, particularly supporting issues with violence against girls and women, and providing emotional support. The Member Grants scheme has recently provided funding for the project towards a new laptop, and this was also taken into consideration by the Panel and therefore would not support the funding towards another lap top.

Ulverscroft Camera Club – Score 27.7 - Recommendation to award up to £500

59. Ulverscroft Camera Club has been based in Woodhouse Eaves since 2014. It is a thriving club with a membership of 42 (from all areas of Charnwood) which continues to grow. The club meets in the village hall fortnightly from September to June each year, and during the summer months organises a number of photo-walks. An exhibition takes place in July and is open to the public, providing an opportunity for members to exhibit pieces of work. Works are sold, with the proceeds going towards the club. The vast majority of members are over 50. The age profile also means a higher percentage of members with underlying ill health challenges. About one third were required to shield/self-isolate, and many are still extremely anxious about going out.
60. Funding is being requested towards online delivery through an annual Zoom subscription, external speakers/tuition offering interactive lectures and practical

sessions followed by a monthly challenge and towards the running costs of the sessions.

61. The benefits of the project include:
- Reduces social isolation;
 - Improves mental wellbeing;
 - Increases engagement with the natural environment;
 - Increases learning and mutual support.
62. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and a comment was received as follows:
- “With the changing circumstances surrounding the pandemic, the Ulverscroft Camera Club has managed to bring members together and support their needs through this difficult time. This has been delivered in various ways including through virtual meetings. In my view, this project will help to further their aims in bringing members together in a safe environment where the activities outlined will help with their members mental health and isolation/loneliness issues, noting a good majority of members are over 50. I believe the project will help to bring some normality back to their members way of life by once again meeting like-minded people around the Charnwood area.”
63. The application of £593 is for 21.7% of the total project cost of £2,730.
64. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.7 and recommends that a grant of up to £500 be awarded.
65. The Panel felt that this was a good application, with lots of detail provided. The Panel recognised that this is a growing and well-supported group.

Age UK Leics – Score 27.7 - Recommendation to award up to £2,500

66. Age UK Leicester Shire & Rutland (AULS&R) established in 1952, has substantial experience in identifying need and delivering appropriate services for older people to improve their health and wellbeing. AULS&R is a local charity which promotes the older people’s wellbeing by helping make later life more fulfilling and enjoyable. Activities currently include:
- Information & Advice Services (I&A);
 - Community Resource Centres;
 - Lunch Clubs;
 - Befriending Services;
 - Charnwood Men & Women in Sheds;
 - Day Care Services.
67. Funding is being requested towards The Men and Women in Sheds Project (Shed) in Loughborough. Funding will help the Shed recover from the pandemic by supporting the core costs of running the Shed. This will enable the charity to focus on a revised business plan to maximise income generation, develop further interventions and build a sustainable project for future beneficiaries.

68. The benefits of the project include:
- Reduces social and economic isolation;
 - Enables more enjoyable, fulfilled lives;
 - Improves physical and mental wellbeing;
 - Empowers people to make improved decisions about their care and caring responsibilities.
69. The application of £5,000 is for 14.2% of the total project cost of £35,150.
70. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.7 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,500 be awarded.
71. The Panel felt that this was a good project, and noted that they are working on a business plan with a view to looking at long-term financial sustainability. The Panel took this into consideration, along with the fact that this group had been funded for a number of years in deciding the amount of grant to be recommended for award.

Molly's Gift – Score 27.3 - Recommendation to award up to £2,000

72. Molly's Gift is a charity which launched in 2019 and has been set up in memory of local Loughborough Foxes Captain, Molly Webb, who sadly died in January 2019 at just 25 years old. Molly's Gift is Molly's legacy and helps to keep Molly's promise 'To Help Everyone Smile' and to inspire and help disadvantaged young people to have the same opportunities as their peers. During the first year, the organisation raised money and opened up a small grants application so that local sports clubs, community groups, schools and individuals could apply for up to £500 to support them to become more physically active. 17 applications were funded, totalling £5K. During the summer, Molly's Gift delivered a community outreach programme and Holiday Activities and Food Programme engaging 35 FREE School Meal Children at a holiday club setting, providing healthy food and a range of activities. They now want to look into building on the relationships with The Arc Community Hub, Beacon Academy, Outwoods Edge Primary School; and the individual young people and their parents in the Loughborough Shelthorpe Ward.
73. Funding is being requested for a Saturday morning club for 5 – 11 year olds which will provide a breakfast or lunch and weekly activities which focus on increasing physical activity levels, positive mental health, a number of enrichment type activities, healthy eating and nutrition and team building.
74. The benefits of the project include:
- Reduces the effects of economic and social deprecation on children and low-income families;
 - Increases opportunities to benefit from sports and physical activities and social development;
 - Empowers children and low-income families to make safe and healthy life-style choices.
75. The application of £4,000 is for 57.2% of the total project cost of £6,998.

76. The Panel scored this scheme at 27.3 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded towards staffing, DBS, and venue hire.
77. The Panel felt that this was a good project that works with hard to reach young people in a priority area. There were concerns that some of the costs are high and could be reduced by using online marketing rather than printing leaflets, linking in with local supermarkets to obtain free or reduced-cost healthy foods, using donated equipment, and by introducing a small attendance fee.

Stonebow Washlands Group – Score 27 - Recommendation to award up to £750 through the Serco Environmental Fund

78. The group aims to maintain and enhance the habitat of the Stonebow Washlands area for the benefit of wildlife and to maintain the area as a site for quiet informal recreation by:
- Pruning and planting trees with particular attention to their benefits to birds and other wildlife;
 - Making good gaps in wildlife corridors and supporting regeneration;
 - Providing and monitoring nesting boxes;
 - Tidying pathways from overgrowth and litter picking;
 - Leading nature walks and school visits;
 - Surveying birds flora and fauna.
79. Funding is requested for the planting of saplings to expand and fill in the new plantation which is filling in a gap in the wildlife corridor along the Black Brook and also to fill in gaps elsewhere. Clearing trees to let more light into Roy's pond and the introduction of marginals and water plants to encourage wildlife. This is done by volunteers lead by the committee for the benefit of all those visiting the washlands.
80. The benefits of the project include:
- Continued protection and maintenance of natural habitat;
 - Improves physical and mental wellbeing through engagement with the natural environment;
 - Improves volunteering experience through engagement with the natural environment.
81. The application of £865 is for 100% of the total project cost.
82. The Panel scored this scheme at 27 and recommends that a grant of up to £750 be awarded through the Serco Environmental fund.
83. The Panel felt that this was a strong environmental and community project, in an area that is in the process of becoming a nature reserve. The group has strong representation from Charnwood Borough Council, and IdVerde are on the management committee providing support.

Loughborough Wellbeing Centre – Score 27 - Recommendation to award up to £3,000 through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund

84. The Charities main objectives are to provide support to adults (18 and over) who are recovering from mental health problems in the Charnwood area and to:

- Provide a safe and welcoming place;
- Provide access to regular twice weekly crisis café evenings;
- Increase their self-confidence;
- Increase their self-care skills;
- Improve their awareness and encourage access to appropriate support services (signposting);
- Encourage their participation and involvement at the sessions;
- Promote and encourage volunteering opportunities;
- Establish a peer-to-peer support network;
- Reduce social isolation;
- Promote wellbeing and recovery to improve their mental health;
- Improve self-resilience to cope with day-to-day issues.

To meet the objectives above, the organisation provides a range of supportive activities through sessional work for approximately 130 adults living with enduring mental health issues across the whole of Charnwood, with weekly Wellbeing Cafes in Shepshed and Loughborough. Activities are in consultation with members to provide sessions that they would like. These include arts and crafts, games and quizzes, healthy eating, mindfulness, life coaching, physical activities and adult learning courses.

85. Funding is being requested towards the running costs (rental and associated service charges) of the new Wellbeing Centre of £3,970 which is the shortfall for the initial first year's operational costs of the premises (3 months free rent has been secured from the Landlord and they have a regular room rental amount from Turning Point who rent the space for the Crisis Cafes which operate twice weekly, 52 weeks per year).

86. The benefits of the project include:

- Provides a safe place for people living with mental health issues;
- Befriending service provides individuals with support they need;
- Reduces risks of isolation, suicide and self-harm.

87. The application of £3,970 is for 26.5% of the total project cost of £15,000.

88. The Panel scored this scheme at 27 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,000 be awarded through the Contain Outbreak Management fund. The Loughborough Wellbeing Centre have been working to support the Community Hub throughout Covid, providing support to individuals that are identified that have higher needs than just befriending.

89. The Panel felt that this was a very promising project and extends the range of support and services that are able to be offered. The project benefits a high number of people and has delivered over the last few years in terms of mental

health support. The Panel felt that they would like to support this project and there was an opportunity to fund it though the Contain Outbreak Management funds that had been received to support VCS organisations with community covid recovery activity that meet a specific identified community need.

Anand Mangal Group – Score 27 - Recommendation to award up to £1,500

90. Anand Mangal group is a volunteer led community group set up to meet the needs of elderly women living in Loughborough. The group brings together people with a shared interest of making friends and being more involved in the community they live in. Attendees are elderly ladies from the South Asian Community around Charnwood. The group aims to empower service users so that despite their age they can make a positive contribution to society and in doing so improve personal health and wellbeing.

The organisations aims are:

- To improve the physical and mental health outcomes for older women;
- To increase opportunities for older women from marginalised groups to engage in wider community participation;
- To reduce social isolation among older women;
- To improve the way information is disseminated to older people from BAME communities.

91. Funding is being requested for room hire and running costs for sessions run by volunteers which support 40 elderly ladies across the Charnwood community for 2 hours on a weekly basis at Fearon Hall.

92. The benefits of the project include:

- Improves the physical and mental health outcomes for older women;
- Increases opportunities for older women from marginalised groups to engage in wider community participation;
- Reduces social isolation among older women.

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

“I fully support this grant application. This group plays a valuable role in building community spirit and preventing social isolation.”

“I’m happy to support this application from Anand Mangal. It’s a great group.”

“In the early days I helped and supported this group in its first days through the channels of Loughborough College when teaching English for Speakers of other Languages. It then grew and encompassed other methods of delivering services including the basic raison d’etre compatibility, friendship and cohesion. That it is still growing and thriving, shows how, when supported through the grants system, how these groups continue and support local communities. It is a model of its kind and could be held up as such for others to follow.”

94. The application of £2,110 is for 67% of the total project cost of £3,150.

95. The Panel scored this scheme at 27 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,500 be awarded.
96. The Panel felt that this was a good project, well targeted, and that the group is well-managed. The Panel noted that the Covid pandemic has impacted the group in terms of numbers and sustainability, however are confident that numbers will increase, and recognise that membership donations are now being secured which shows the commitment of members of the group. The group could be supported going forward by the Council's Sports and Active Recreation team, and would link in well with the Tackling Inequalities programme.

Shepshed Dolphin Swimming Group – Score 24.7 - Recommendation to award up to £2,000

97. The group provides a weekly swimming session with an Aqua fit class for anyone with a disability, long term health condition or illness/injury. The group operates at the community pool in Shepshed, but users come from further afield with around 26 swimmers each week, many are regulars. They have supported 71 disabled members in total and who they remain in contact. The aim of the organisation is to improve the wellbeing and fitness of members. As well as exercise it is a social time for members to get together, some of which this weekly session will be their only source of activity. The organisation is run with one staff member (administrator and fundraiser), 7 session volunteers and 3 lifeguards. They use the weekly swim fees to pay the lifeguards and the Aqua Fit instructor is also paid.
98. Funding is being requested for the AquaFit class which is a 1 hour fitness class taught by a qualified Aqua aerobics teacher. The target audience is anyone with a disability, long term health condition, recovering from illness or injury to exercise in the water relieves joints of the pressure they may feel day to day.
99. The benefits of the project include:
 - Continues to provide accessibility to specialised swimming and exercise support to people with physical disabilities, long-term health conditions, recovering from injuries;
 - Reduces social isolation;
 - Improves physical and mental wellbeing;
 - Provides respite to participants, their carers and families.
100. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and no comments were received.
101. The application of £4,950 is for 50.6% of the total project cost of £9,773.
102. The Panel scored this scheme at 24.7 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded towards pool hire and running costs of the aquafit session, but not towards the co-ordinator / admin costs.
103. The Panel recognise the group is unique in its service to people with disabilities, and that volunteer numbers are good, and would like to support the group. The

Panel identified that both the admin salary and aqua-fit instructor costs are high, and that the group will need support with working on their future sustainability and identifying alternative funding pots and both the VCS Development Officers and the Council's Sport and Active Recreation team will work with them.

Leicester City in the Community – Score 24.3 - Recommendation to award up to £2,000 for pilot activities/sessions through the Contain Outbreak Management fund

104. The organisation's strategy focusses on three fundamental themes of Education, Community Engagement and Health and Wellbeing. The purpose of the Community Engagement theme is to engage all communities to provide activities and programmes that respond to local challenges and need.

To achieve this, the organisation aims to:

- Break down socio-economic barriers to provide equal opportunities;
- Enhance relationships between young people and the police;
- Promote community integration to stimulate local pride;
- Engage with young people to provide positive alternatives to crime and antisocial behaviour.

105. Funding is being requested toward the Urban Foxes project which engages young people through a range of Urban Sports such as Parkour, Skateboarding and BMX. The aim is to deliver blocks of 10 – 12 weeks of activity at Southfields Park (Skateboarding, BMX and Parkour), Oakley Road Park (BMX and Parkour) and Sileby Memorial Park (Skateboarding and BMX) for young people aged 8 – 18 years, providing opportunities for participants to engage with and learn from qualified practitioners.

106. The benefits of the project include:

- Raising awareness of the safety aspects of sports such as how to fall correctly and skatepark etiquette which will minimise injury and increase individual confidence in ability;
- Developing skills appropriate to the level of the participant, which will support continued engagement and promote individual resilience;
- Supporting aspects of community safety by providing safe spaces for young people to participate, and to take ownership of 'their' space;
- Embracing the urban sport 'digital' culture by providing wider learning opportunities including media and video production and/or smart phone video workshops. This will enable participants to upload tricks etc to social media.

107. The application of £5,000 is for 76.9% of the total project cost of £6,500.

108. The Panel scored this scheme at 24.3 and recommends that a grant of up to £2,000 be awarded initially through the Contain Outbreak Management funding that has been received towards physical and mental health interventions, for a pilot project.

109. The Panel are supportive of this project and have strong links with the organisation through the Council's Sports and Active Recreation Team. There are concerns over the future sustainability of the project, and the Panel recommend that funding of up to £2,000 is awarded through the Contain Outbreak Management fund, to run an initial pilot of the project over the winter to show evidence of need.

Charnwood Drawing and Painting Club – Score 24.3 - Recommendation to award up to £675 towards a Wireless PA system and three sessions

110. Charnwood Drawing and Painting Club was established over 25 years ago and is made up of around 40 amateur artists from across Charnwood who meet up for regular art demonstrations, outdoor walk and draw/paint sessions, indoor painting sessions, and exhibitions of their works. Members are of all ages and abilities (from experienced to novices), ethnicities, with an exciting programme of demonstrations, participation events and art exhibitions. The groups aims and objectives are to:

- Encourage and promote the development of painting & drawing skills in adults of all ages;
- Stage demonstrations by established artists to improve knowledge/practice of painting;
- Run workshops and organise visits to 'painterly' locations, galleries and exhibitions;
- Organise exhibitions featuring members' work to promote the Club and its attractions;
- Build members' confidence and improve interaction, mental health and personal fulfilment.

111. Funding is being requested to deliver 10 online workshops in 2022, delivered by professional artists, to give members practical instruction in the techniques when using different mediums including painting with oils, pastels, acrylics, mixed media and watercolour.

112. The benefits of the project include:

- Enables members to reconnect and reduce the isolating effects of C-19;
- Improves mental wellbeing;
- Increases self-esteem through improving and learning new skills.

113. The application of £1,975 is for 100% of the total project cost.

114. The Panel scored this scheme at 24.3 and recommends that a grant of up to £675 be awarded towards a Wireless PA system and three workshops, subject to the group considering making a small charge to members for workshops.

115. The Panel are supportive of the project which benefits a good number of people and they note that a pilot has already been run successfully. They feel however that the artists' fees are high, that the group need to revisit their costs and business plan and recommend that the grant is used towards the Wireless PA system and three workshops only.

Shree Ram Krishna Community Project – Score 23.4 - Recommendation to award up to £1,200 towards the exercise element of the project

116. SRK Community Project works for the benefit of the residents of Loughborough, based in the Lemyngton and Hastings wards of Charnwood, where their service users are predominantly from. They run a community centre that delivers activities based on community need, predominantly helping and supporting the elderly and vulnerable hard to reach members of the community. A wide range of service users from 6 months to 90+ years of age are supported, including around 30 creche aged children, 48 pre-school aged children, creche and preschool parents and carers every week, around 120-150 adult ESOL learners, around 80 elderly men and women service users, 20-35 one-to-one support, advocacy and sign-posting service to the general public and temple users on a weekly basis and other project users. Most services are delivered by paid staff and some student volunteers for their preschool and other volunteers for their social groups.
117. Funding is requested for a new group targeting between 15-25 elderly South Asian men between the ages 65-90 that are socially isolated and disadvantaged living in Loughborough. The aim is to provide a place to meet and make friends, learn, socialise, participate in exercise in order to create a better lifestyle in terms of health and well-being. The project will be owned by its beneficiaries, but the centre staff will provide support mechanisms with delivery and overseeing the project. Weekly 2-2.5 hour sessions will be delivered for 46 weeks. The project will be based at the Community Centre as a local meeting point within close reach.
118. The benefits of the project include:
- Improves engagement with hard-to-reach vulnerable elderly men in the Asian community;
 - Reduces loneliness due to economic, social isolation and poor health;
 - Increases physical and mental wellbeing.
119. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and a comment was received as follows:
- “I fully support this project. It is targeting a very forgotten group of individuals within the Loughborough community and if they can get this started it will help immensely the wellbeing of the participants.”
120. The application of £3,072 is for 100% of the total project cost.
121. The Panel scored this scheme at 23.4 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,200 be awarded towards the exercise element of the project.
122. The Panel felt that this was a positive project and was offering something new to this community user group. Questions were raised as to whether the group should be charging a small membership fee. The Panel would like to award partial funding for the exercise element, and the Council’s Sports and Active Recreation Team will work with them to see what additional support can be offered.

Barrow in Bloom – Score 22.7 - Recommendation to award up to £1,000 through the Serco Environmental fund

123. Barrow in Bloom aims to bring together people and voluntary groups within the village that are interested in improving the village through the RHS core pillars of excellence which are: Horticultural Achievement, Environmental responsibility and Community participation. The Bloom teams look after the village footpaths and jitties, by keeping them clear of overhanging branches and general overgrowth, as well as keeping the village clear of litter with regular community litter picking events. The organisation has recently set up a group with East Midlands Railways to adopt and care for the Railway Station and have a Partnership arrangement with the Canal and River Trust to look after the waterways surrounding the village. The Footpaths group has 46 registered volunteers. The Adult Litter Picking group has 19 registered volunteers. The new Station Adoption group has 18 members.
124. Funding is being requested to improve various locations in the village which include Bridge Street amenity area, the memorial gardens at Holy Trinity Church and the sensory gardens at King George V Park. Improvements include refurbishing 10 existing benches, building new planters, repairing a wall, planting, and introduction of bird/bat boxes.
125. The benefits of the project include:
- Being part of the volunteer group will improve general wellbeing and a sense of accomplishment and pride in where they live;
 - Caring for the environment and biodiversity issues;
 - A pleasant area in the village for individuals and families of all ages to enjoy.
126. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and a comment was received as follows:
- “I am happy for any sort of Grant to be allocated to this group Barrow in Bloom they help by making the Village to look pleasing, inviting and create a good Village atmosphere.”
127. The application of £2,500 is for 83.3% of the total project cost of £3,000.
128. The Panel scored this scheme at 22.7 and recommends that a grant of up to £1,000 be awarded through the Serco Environmental fund.
129. The Panel felt that this was a nice environmental project, particularly the sensory garden and bat box elements which would be priorities for funding, and that it encourages volunteers to take an interest in their community and environment.

Sileby Tennis Club – Score 22.2 - Recommendation to award up to £500 towards sports equipment and marketing

130. Sileby Tennis Club was established in 1927 and provides sporting facilities to the residents of Sileby and surrounding villages. The group has a large growing

catchment area, given the expansion of housing in Sileby and nearby villages e.g. Barrow on Soar, Barkby, Barkby Thorpe, Quorn, Seagrave, Cossington, Mountsorrel, and East Goscote, and the lack of facilities to play tennis elsewhere.

131. Funding is requested to:

- Maintain the courts and surrounding grounds for a further year;
- Improve the court playing surface maintenance and cleaning;
- Clear overgrown land from weeds and brambles;
- Market and improve facilities for the wider community.

132. The benefits of the project include:

- Improves grassroots accessibility to tennis for all age groups and abilities to the wider community;
- Improves inter-generational interaction through tennis and other social activities;
- Improves physical and mental wellbeing.

133. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and no comments were received.

134. The application of £5,000 is for 75.8% of the total project cost of £6,597.

135. The Panel scored this scheme at 22.2 and recommends that a grant of up to £500 be awarded towards sports equipment and marketing.

136. The Panel are supportive of the club, however felt that there were certain elements of the application which did not meet the criteria for this grants scheme, and are therefore only recommending funding towards equipment and marketing of the club only. A member of the Sports and Active Recreation team will be meeting with the club to offer further support.

Birstall Theatre Company – Score 22 - Recommendation to award up to £750

137. A community theatre which started in 2019, with members and service users coming from Birstall and surrounding areas such as Thurmaston and Syston. The type of service users are young, and older, disabled, we also have some young people that have learning issues. Members meet regular to rehearse for community performances. Skills training, singing, dancing, acting, communication and confidence building skills to all aged 14 – 70 are offered. Backstage roles i.e. moving scenery, closing the curtains, sorting the props, making the props and helping with costumes and the ticket bookings etc. Members meet once or twice a week rehearsing at the Birstall Scout HQ building on Birstall Road and performances taking place at the Palmer-Tomkinson Theatre at the Cedars College in Birstall,

138. Funding is being requested towards a pantomime in early 2022, and costs include theatre venue hire, rehearsal room hire, make-up and costume hire, programmes, music, props and scenery, and sound and lighting equipment.

139. The benefits of the project include:
- Improves grassroots, local accessibility to the arts and theatre for audiences and participants who are often excluded due to economic and social deprivation;
 - Provides opportunities and a safe space for performing and back-stage members to improve their skills and self-esteem.
140. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:
- “It looks like a good project but the numbers don’t seem to add up. Their projected income is £2540 more than their expected expenditure. I wouldn’t want to see our grant money sat in a bank account without purpose.”
141. The application of £2,500 is for 52.6% of the total project cost of £4,755.
142. The Panel scored this scheme at 22 and recommends that a grant of up to £750 be awarded towards the room hire element of the application.
143. The Panel felt that this was a good project and that it would be a positive, cross-generational activity after the Covid pandemic. The Panel considered that some of the costs seemed high, however they recognise that ticket sales will be contributing towards the overall cost.

Charnwood Arts – Score 22 - Recommendation to award up to £700 for community elements of the project

144. Charnwood Arts has held a base in Loughborough since 1973 and has consistently contributed to the Leicestershire arts community. The organisation has retained energy and enthusiasm to push through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and to creatively connect with the community. The team is made up of 6 employees, 5 of which are part-time but work with local emerging artists and partner organisations to help deliver the programme. Embracing community, enabling people of all ages, whatever their circumstances, skills, abilities and experience to access the arts across all its forms and at all levels, in a variety of roles. From April 2021 to September 2021 a total of 7,328 members of the community have engaged with the community arts programme offerings (not including social media engagements), alongside ongoing Covid-19 restrictions. Service users include neurodiverse groups, young people, older people, socio-economically deprived groups, people with disabilities, asylum seekers and refugees.
145. Funding is being requested for an 8 week programme called Just Be You and includes an introductory workshop put together by local artist Andrew McWilliams. It includes a series of creative activities, ongoing support and leads to each school / community group recording their very own Just Be You! song, which they can keep and use indefinitely. Each recording will also be combined to create a community single, with a short visual to accompany (adhering to government guidelines).
146. The benefits of the project include:

- Reduces social isolation;
- Increases physical activity and improves motor skills through singing and dancing;
- Increases opportunities to learn or develop a new craft or skill.

147. The application of £3,300 is for 55% of the total project cost of £6,000.
148. The Panel scored this scheme at 22 and recommends that a grant of up to £700 be awarded in principle for the community organisation elements of the project.
149. The Panel felt that this was a positive project, however schools are heavily involved with the project, which this grants scheme would not be able to support. Funding is therefore offered towards the community organisation elements only.

Artspace Loughborough – Score 20.6 - Recommendation to decline

150. Artspace are applying for funding towards their 'Harmony and Healing for Planet and People' project. The aims of the organisation are:
- Unite local, practising artists and develop a network within the region to facilitate the sharing of information, resources, skills and opportunities;
 - Use the collective potential of a group to generate new opportunities and larger projects for artists to take part in;
 - Provide a forum for local, practising artists to share, discuss and develop their creative ideas with other practising artists;
 - Raise the profile of the group and its members through exhibitions, community-based art projects and workshops, and other events;
 - Increase the number and range of people experiencing and participating in the arts, particularly through the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers;
 - 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.
151. The 'Harmony and Healing for Planet and People' project aims to promote personal and community well-being and increase awareness of environmental sustainability and draw links between the two. This will be achieved through creativity in the natural landscape with a varied programme of arts activities which will revolve around the 1.5-mile sculpture trail. As a celebration of the woodland landscape and critique of the climate crisis, the trail will provide inspiration for visitors and participants, allowing them to engage with the woods in an active way to promote a sense of connection to, and understanding of, the natural world. The project will run for 35 weeks from February 14 to October 14 2022. The Sculpture Trail in the Outwoods will open 30 May and close 2 September. 2022.
152. The application of £5,000 is for 8.4% of the total cost of £59,327.
153. The Panel scored this scheme at 20.6 and recommends that the application be declined.

154. Although the Panel are supportive of this project, they feel that the overall costs of the project are high, and a large amount of funding is dependent on match funding which is not yet confirmed. The project is not viable without these funds and the decision timescales are uncertain and the anticipated timescale for the outcome has been extended. In addition the application did not score as highly as other applications, and therefore the Panel do not feel able to recommend an award of funding.

Wymeswold Playgroup – Score 20 - Recommendation to decline

155. Wymeswold Playgroup provides pre-school childcare for children aged 2 to school age. It is a non-profit making charity which aims to provide affordable care to families in Wymeswold and the surrounding villages, providing free care for those parents and carers entitled to Government funding.
156. Funding is requested to become a Forest School. The group would like to offer two sessions a week for children in small woods just a five minute walk from their setting, which is two mornings a week, 3 hours per session. The group will support children and families in having as healthier lifestyle as possible by encouraging Parents and Carers to be healthier and families to engage with and interact with the world around them. This will be achieved by exploring new exciting things in the woodland area such as muddy kitchens, nature hunts and bug hunts, which in turn opens up a new exciting opportunity they may want to carry on exploring with parents whilst at home. Learning to cook and eat outside, prepare food, forage for food, serve food, for both Parents/Carers and children is about lifelong learning.
157. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and no comments were received.
158. The application of £2,827 is for 100% of the total cost.
159. The Panel scored this scheme at 20 and recommends that the application be declined.
160. The Panel had questions over the costs of this project, and whether the forest school sessions would fit in with the normal playgroup sessions rather than being additional sessions. The Panel also noted that the playgroup has applied for 100% of the costs and that there would be no other income or charge for participants, and felt that therefore the project would be unsustainable going forward.

Loughborough Air Quality Protection Group – Score 18.7 - Recommendation to decline

161. The group aims to monitor air quality in and around Loughborough to ensure good quality air for all residents and to identify any air pollution issues. Air quality is currently being monitored using 6 personal air quality monitoring devices in the Nanpantan ward. These are also available to volunteers when they are out and about within the ward and further afield in Loughborough.
162. Funding is requested to purchase a subscription to a Community Dashboard, to allow for better data analysis and visualisation using data from multiple Flow2

air quality monitors over 3 years. This will allow term changes and patterns in the local air quality to be observed.

163. The application of £876 is for 100% of the total cost.
164. The Panel scored this scheme at 18.7 and recommends that the application be declined.
165. Two thirds of the costs of the project were ineligible due to the project period covering three years. The Panel also felt that the issue of air quality was being picked up elsewhere, and the project did not score as highly as other projects against the criteria of the scheme.

Rotary Club of Loughborough Beacon – Score 18.6 - Recommendation to decline

166. Rotary International is a worldwide service organisation founded in 1905. There are more than 1.2 million members (male and female) worldwide belonging to local clubs in more than 200 countries. In Loughborough, there are 2 Rotary clubs, RC Loughborough and RC Loughborough Beacon and an Inner Wheel club. The clubs undertake a wide variety of projects in the Charnwood area for the good of the local community. All projects are undertaken by volunteers.
167. Funding is being requested for The Home Starter Box project which began in 2018 and is run by a team of volunteers of the two Rotary clubs and Inner Wheel. The project provides strong plastic crates containing new basic household equipment, for people moving into a new tenancy for whatever reason. The contents are standardised and consist of crockery, saucepans, utensils and toolkits. Each box is securely sealed and has a unique identifying number. Recipients may be single people or families being re-housed in the Charnwood area. They are identified by partner agencies who assist the homeless and refer clients in need of a box. Clients cannot self-refer. Partner agencies included Charnwood Borough Council, Exaireo Trust, Falcon Support Services, LWA, The Bridge, MENCAP, Leicestershire County Council, Marios Tinenti Centre and the Probation Service.
168. The application of £5,000 is for 50% of the total cost of £10,000.
169. The Panel scored this scheme at 18.6 and recommends that the application be declined.
170. The Panel felt that although the project is supporting people in need, the home-starter boxes are effectively grant aid from the Rotary Club to individuals who are also Charnwood Borough Council Tenants, and this is not in keeping with what the Community Grants are for and can be provided through other avenues.

Mountsorrel Methodist Church – Score 18 - Recommendation to decline

171. The church provides a venue which is used extensively by various groups throughout the week, such as Sunday Worship, Boys' and Girls' Brigade, Caterpillar Playgroup (4 sessions per week), 55+ Exercise Class, Jessica Michele Dancing School, Weightwatchers, Mums and Toddlers group and

Seventh-day Adventist Church (on Saturdays). They also provide sports hall facilities for Children's birthday parties etc.

172. Funding is being requested towards the cleaning costs of the chapel and the hall which is now being carried out by a professional cleaning company, more regularly due to Covid-19.
173. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

"I'd only be happy to support if evidenced of the actual costs."
174. The application of £1,000 is for 33.3% of the total cost of £3,000.
175. The Panel scored this scheme at 18 and recommends that the application be declined.
176. The project is solely for cleaning, and it is unclear whether this is for the whole building. The Panel feel that whilst this church was supported with funding for cleaning as part of the Covid-19 Recovery Grants scheme in 2020, cleaning is not eligible for the Community Grants scheme, and organisations need to find a sustainable way of undertaking cleaning going forward.

Newtown Linford Tennis Club – Score 17.5 - Recommendation to decline

177. A community tennis club in Newtown Linford which brings people together from local and surrounding areas from all backgrounds to be active and use the sport of tennis to enhance their lives. The club offers facilities to children, linking with local schools to provide coaching and also provide families with respite for childcare during coaching / holiday camps. A reduced membership rate is available for vulnerable people to offer the facilities at a rate where they can include all.
178. Funding is being requested to enhance the facilities at the club which includes creating a new path to the courts from the gate, replacement of old and tired nets, replacing old equipment and court maintenance.
179. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

"Newtown Linford Tennis Club is well embedded within the local community offering playing tennis to a wide range of people of all ages. This has been especially good attracting children and young people to take part, with an opportunity to join in coaching sessions. The club provides an opportunity to play tennis throughout the year. Therefore, I believe it is important to maintain facilities so that people can enjoy playing tennis in a safe environment."
180. The application of £5,000 is for 100% of the total cost.

181. The Panel scored this scheme at 17.5 and recommends that the application be declined.
182. The Panel felt that the majority of the elements of the project were ineligible and did not meet the criteria of the scheme. In addition, the club would not be contributing towards the project, and it was unclear how many beneficiaries there would be or whether the courts were available for wider community use.

Birstall and District Art Society – Score 17.5 - Recommendation to decline

183. An Art Society for amateur painters which provide workshops, weekly painting classes led by professional artists from October-December and January-April, gallery visits, art fair trips and painting outdoors in surrounding villages and countryside. Monthly demonstrations are held by professional artists in the Palmer Tomkinson Centre at Cedars Academy, Birstall, which are open to all 85 members (10 of whom are non-fee paying Honorary members) and visitors from the wider local community. A social activity centre is also provided on Friday morning painting sessions, where members bring their own work and refreshments are provided. The vast majority of members are retired, with many in their seventies and some being in their eighties. A friendship group is also offered which supports members, not only in their artistic endeavours but also in their private lives, which can often be challenging.
184. Funding is being requested towards their running costs and annual art exhibition due to lack of income from subs over the last year. The specific activities are weekly painting sessions, monthly demonstration meetings and annual art exhibition 2022.
185. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“No objection from me.”
186. The application of £2,000 is for 35.4% of the total cost of £5,652.
187. The Panel scored this scheme at 17.5 and recommends that the application be declined.
188. The Panel felt that the overall project costs were high, some elements of the project were ineligible and some were outside of the required timescales. The Panel recommend that VCS Development Officers contact the group to provide assistance with their business model.

Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church – Score 17.4 - Recommendation to decline

189. The Methodist Church meets for worship each Sunday and manage a large suite of premises which has recently been expanded to meet the needs of the local community. The facilities are used by a wide range of groups including daily playgroup, weekly Girl Guide Company, Charnwood Performing Arts, Fortnightly Ladies’ fellowship, Monthly Minimarket, Men’s Group, Gardening

Club, New Horizons bereavement support, Fun at Church afternoon youth club. Future bookings include a Karate group and Panto. All these groups are open to people from around the locality, although the majority are from this village.

190. Funding is being requested to fund the employment of professional cleaners. It is proposed to engage professional cleaners to attend each week to clean the areas used by the groups described above to a high standard and this project is to seek funding to meet this cost.
191. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“I am happy to support this application for a Community Grant. The Church is widely used by the groups, organisations and residents of the village.”
192. The application of £2,500 is for 100% of the total cost.
193. The Panel scored this scheme at 17.4 and recommends that the application be declined.
194. The Panel feel that whilst this church was supported with funding for cleaning as part of the Covid-19 Recovery Grants scheme in 2020, cleaning is not eligible for the Community Grants scheme, and organisations need to find a sustainable way of undertaking cleaning going forward.

Emmanuel Church Centre Garden – Score 16.2 - Recommendation to decline

195. Emmanuel Church Loughborough serves the local community. Approximately 400 people use the building each week and pedestrian and traffic passing the church considerably exceeds this number. It has a large churchyard which is an extensive green space much used in the locality. The appearance and appreciation of the churchyard has been considerably enhanced by the cultivation of several attractive flowerbeds. These have been much appreciated both by users of the building and passers-by. Volunteers maintain these beds trying to maintain their attractiveness throughout the year.
196. Funding is being requested to transform a green space on the church grounds by planting flowers and creating a space to grow in partnership with the local school.
197. The application of £1,375 is for 100% of the total cost.
198. The Panel scored this scheme at 16.2 and recommends that the application be declined.
199. This was a low-scoring application, and the Panel felt that there was limited information provided, and the project was only targeted at one school, there was

no wider community benefit identified. There was also no information about how the project would be delivered and maintained on an ongoing basis.

The Generator Loughborough CIC – Not scored - Recommendation to decline

200. 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.
201. Funding is being requested towards the running costs of a new multi-purpose venue for use by the whole community. It will provide space for new businesses, create new jobs and provide unique opportunities for community engagement and volunteering. It will increase footfall in the town and enhance the daytime and night-time economies. Estimates for hall usage are the main hall will be used at least once a week for participatory arts with an average attendance of 30 (1500 per year) the ante hall will be used twice a week with an average of 5 users (500 per year) the Art Room also twice a week with an average of 5 users (500 per year) and the basement twice a week with an average of 3 users (300 per year). This means 2,800 users per year although many will be repeat visits. Partners include the University, the Students Union, Charnwood Borough Council, Charnwood Arts, the Loughborough History and Heritage Group, Love Loughborough, Modern Painters and New Decorators and Graffio.
202. The application of £5,000 is for 12.7% of the total cost of £39,387.
203. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not being eligible against the criteria of the scheme and recommends that the application be declined, with the opportunity for them to re-submit their application to a future grants round.
204. The project was not within the timescales of the terms and conditions of the grant scheme and the Panel felt that further information was required about community engagement with hard to reach sectors of the community.

Charnwood Christmas Toy Appeal – Not scored - Recommendation to decline

205. The charity provides new Christmas presents to Charnwood's under privileged children. All of the children are referred to them by a service: Social services, women's aid, Health centre, Food banks, The Bridge, probation and many more. The children are aged between 0 – 16 years. All children have a book or craft set, selection box, stocking fillers and a main present. They do not wrap the presents as they like to encourage the parents to do this as it makes it more personal.
206. Funding is being requested to help towards the cost of the gifts. They are expecting more children due to covid, plus toys seem to be more expensive this

year which is why they are asking for extra funding. £1,500 will provide toys for 80 children. They normally provide presents for between 480 – 550 children. Last year however, due to covid, the final figure was 645 children.

207. The application of £1,500 is for 12.8% of the total cost of £11,750.
208. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not being eligible against the criteria of the scheme and recommends that the application be declined.
209. Although recognising the positive work that this organisation does in the community, the Panel felt that in providing funding for the toys they would essentially be giving to charity, which is not what the Community Grant scheme is for.

Anstey Chess Club – Not scored - Recommendation to decline

210. This is a newly formed local community chess club. They play on Thursday evenings from 7pm at Anstey Methodist Church, which they hire with a room rate of £20 per night for 40 nights. Currently with only 10 or so members, they have a large deficit to cover. The group aims to encourage as many people to play chess as possible by helping them to learn and progress with their game, if they choose to do so.
211. They require financial assistance towards the cost of the room hire in order to sustain the benefit of chess in the community. They have had successful grants from Anstey Parish Council and more recently Anstey Town Charity to help sustain the club.
212. The application of £500 is for 62.5% of the total cost of £800.
213. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not being eligible against the criteria of the scheme and recommends that the application be declined.
214. The Panel noted that the applicant as it stands is the only person on the management committee, and he is also the only signatory on the account, and therefore the Panel are unable to provide funding. The Panel recommends that VCS Development Officers offer support to the applicant, in order to get the group properly set up.

System and District Volunteer Centre – Not scored - Recommendation to decline

215. Promoting and sustaining personal independence, community and family ties through the provision of subsidised transport and associated volunteer-led services; harnessing and directing local volunteer energies and skills.
216. Funding is being requested towards the re-commissioning of two fully-owned minibuses which have been garaged under SORN conditions for the duration of the pandemic. After the lifting of Covid restrictions, using volunteer drivers, they

look to a rapid re-instatement of their community transport activities using the minibuses for excursions, community lunches and other group activities serving the needs of Syston and surrounding urban and rural communities. This long-established programme serves the needs of residents of all ages, playing a vital part in the battle against loneliness and isolation of the elderly, infirm, disabled and rurally isolated members within their wide catchment area. As their operational history demonstrates, once the initial re-launch costs have been covered, the Centre can readily sustain the service.

217. The application of £3,000 is for 92% of the total cost of £3,260.
218. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not being eligible against the criteria of the scheme and recommends that the application be declined.
219. The applicant had completed a Community Grants application form for a Business Re-start Grant, which was an on-line application process for different grant funding relating to business rate payers. Unfortunately, the Re-start Grant programme is now closed and there are no plans for further rounds in the foreseeable future. In addition, as a Strategic Partner, the organisation is also not eligible to apply to the Community Grants scheme as per the guidance.

Quorn Village CIC – Not scored - Recommendation to decline

220. The CIC acts as a holding account that enables projects to accumulate funds from several sources and pay various suppliers. The proposed method of working, so far with limited testing, is that a local group sets out its proposals for a project and establishes its own management structure to progress it. Recent improvements to the Scout hut and the Village Fair (partially) were done this way. The area the organisation supports is within the Quorn Parish boundary in Charnwood. Issues the organisation addresses include the maintenance and signposting of footpaths, bridleways and cycling routes, encouraging active cycling in Quorn, Youth leisure provision, communication, economy and tourism.
221. Funding is being requested towards the improvement of The Buddon Lane bridleway which runs from Quorn to Old Woodhouse. The first part of the refurbishment aims to resolve a major flooding problem as the path passes under a Great Central Railway bridge.
222. The application of £1,700 is for 100% of the total cost.
223. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not being eligible against the criteria of the scheme and recommends that the application be declined.
224. The application does not meet the criteria of the scheme, as there is no community engagement or development.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Community Facilities Grants Summary

Appendix 2 - Community Grants Summary

Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment

APPENDIX 1

Opening Budget 2021/23 - £150,300

Round 2 2021/22 - Community Facilities Grants Summary

Balance remaining after Round One: £130,300

Balance remaining after this round: £127,100

Applicant	Project description	Amount applied for (£)	Total project cost (£)	Total score	Recommendation
Grant ref 1317 Gorse Covert Community Association	Studio Prep Area and Ambient Toilet Facilities	3,991	7,982	40.8	Approve up to £3,200 (50% of the toilet element) subject to the applicant providing quotes and confirming landlords consent and timescales.
Grant ref 1326 The Generator Loughborough CIC	“Loughborough Generator Project” – Building works	20,000	2,500,000	33.1	Defer to future Round whilst they undertake further work
Grant ref 1316 Girlguiding Birstall	New ranger room	15,000	77,567	24	Decline

Grant ref 1325 Falcon Support Services	Windows / kitchen floor at "The Drop in" day centre	5,000	10,000	Not scored	Decline – not eligible
Grant ref 1328 The Bridge (East Midlands)	New office and drop-in centre – The Foundry Loughborough	10,000	60,000	Not scored	Decline – not eligible

APPENDIX 2

Opening Budget 2021/22 - £50,000

Round 2 2021/22 - Community Grants Summary

Balance remaining after Round One: £20,600

Balance remaining after this round: £0

Serco Environmental Funding : £1750

Balance remaining after this round : £0

Applicant	Project description	Amount applied for (£)	Total project cost (£)	Total score	Recommendation
Grant ref 1330 Passion	Passion Youth Project	5,000	52,525	29.2	Approve up to £4,500
Grant ref 1320 Charnwood Safe, Well, Happy Partnership	Events, workshops, venue hire	450	1,015	28.6	Approve up to £275
Grant ref 1298 Twenty Twenty	Love4Life	4,744	4,744	27.7	Approve up to £3,500
Grant ref 1301 Ulverscroft Camera Club	"Getting back together"	593	2,730	27.7	Approve up to £500
Grant ref 1310 Age UK Leics	Men and Women in Sheds	5,000	35,150	27.7	Approve up to £2,500

Grant ref 1319 Molly's Gift	Saturday Club	4,000	6,998	27.3	Approve up to £2,000 towards staffing, DBS, and venue hire
Grant ref 1305 Stonebow Washlands Group	Stonebow Washlands Enhancement	865	865	27	Approve up to £750 through Serco Environmental fund
Grant ref 1321 Loughborough Wellbeing Centre	Rental costs	3,970	15,000	27	Approve up to £3,000 through the Contain Outbreak Management Fund
Grant ref 1323 Anand Mangal Group	Room hire and equipment	2,110	3,150	27	Approve up to £1,500
Grant ref 1311 Shepshed Dolphin Swimming Group	Pool hire and instructor	4,950	9,773	24.7	Approve up to £2,000
Grant ref 1312 Leicester City in the Community	Urban Foxes	5,000	6,500	24.3	Approve up to £2,000 for pilot activities/sessions through the Contain Outbreak Management fund
Grant ref 1313 Charnwood Drawing and Painting Club	Workshop development and community art engagement	1,975	1,975	24.3	Approve up to £675 towards a Wireless PA system and three workshops
Grant ref 1329 Shree Ram Krishna Community Project	Charnwood Dosti	3,072	3,072	23.4	Approve up to £1,200 towards the exercise element

Grant ref 1306 Barrow in Bloom	Bloom up Barrow in 2022	2,500	3,000	22.7	Approve up to £1,000 through Serco Environmental fund
Grant ref 1307 Sileby Tennis Club	Ground maintenance and marketing and improvement of facilities for the community	5,000	6,597	22.2	Approve up to £500 towards sports equipment and marketing
Grant ref 1296 Birstall Theatre Company	Production of Aladdin 2022	2,500	4,755	22	Approve up to £750 towards room hire
Grant ref 1315 Charnwood Arts	Just be You!	3,300	6,000	22	Approve up to £700 for community elements of the project
Grant ref 1324 Artspace Loughborough	Into the Outwoods Sculpture Trail 2022	5,000	59,327	20.6	Decline
Grant ref 1309 Wymeswold Playgroup	Forest School Setting	2,827	2,827	20	Decline
Grant ref 1295 Loughborough Air Quality Protection Group	3 year subscription to Community Dashboard	876	876	18.7	Decline

Grant ref 1299 Rotary Club of Loughborough Beacon	Home Starter Boxes	5,000	10,000	18.6	Decline
Grant ref 1304 Mountsorrel Methodist Church	Professional Cleaning 2021/22	1,000	3,000	18	Decline
Grant ref 1300 Newtown Linford Tennis Club	Facility Regeneration	5,000	5,000	17.5	Decline
Grant ref 1303 Birstall and District Art Society	Running costs	2,000	5,652	17.5	Decline
Grant ref 1314 Barrow upon Soar Methodist Church	Supporting community use of premises	2,500	2,500	17.4	Decline
Grant ref 1322 Emmanuel Church Centre Garden	Upgrade and re-planting flower beds and children's green spaces	1,375	1,375	16.2	Decline
Grant ref 1327 The Generator Loughborough CIC	Loughborough Generator Project	5,000	39,387	Not scored	Decline - but invite to re-submit to a future round of applications

Grant ref 1302 Charnwood Christmas Toy Appeal	Christmas Toy Appeal	1,500	11,750	Not scored	Decline – not eligible
Grant ref 1308 Anstey Chess Club	Room hire	500	800	Not scored	Decline – not eligible
Grant ref 1297 Syston and District Volunteer Centre	Mini-bus re-start	3,000	3,260	Not scored	Decline – not eligible
Grant ref 1318 Quorn Village CIC	Improving a footpath and bridleways in Quorn	1,700	1,700	Not scored	Decline – not eligible

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	Julie Robinson
Date EIA started	May 2021
Date EIA completed	May 2021

■ **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 to Charnwood Grants. The VCS Development officers also undertake consultation with a range of VCS organisations.</p>

■ **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).

	Comments
Age	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.
Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)	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.
Gender Reassignment (Transgender)	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.
Race	There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Race. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics.
Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)	Whilst Charnwood Grants do not specifically support religious groups / activities, it does provide funding to these groups who are delivering activities for the wider community. 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.
Sex (Gender)	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.
Sexual Orientation	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.
Other protected groups (Pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership)	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.
Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)	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.

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.	J. Robinson	March 2022

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

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

Please delete as appropriate
I agree with this assessment / action plan
If <i>disagree</i>, state action/s required, reasons and details of who is to carry them out with timescales: N/A
Signed (Service Head): Julie Robinson
Date: 26.05.2021

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