

## **CABINET – 7TH APRIL 2022**

### **Report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services**

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

#### **Part A**

#### **ITEM 6      CHARNWOOD GRANTS – ROUND THREE 2021/2022 CHARNWOOD COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANT APPLICATIONS**

##### Purpose of Report

To enable Cabinet to consider applications received for funding in round three of the Community Facilities Grants scheme for 2021/22.

##### Recommendations

1. That the following Community Facilities Grants be awarded:
  - Up to £11,000 to New Life Community Church towards a new meeting room;
  - Up to £4,000 to Barrow Community Library towards a solar PV energy system;
  - Up to £7,797 to Fearon Hall Community Association towards disability access.
2. That the following Community Facilities Grant applications be deferred to a future Round;
  - Bradgate Park Trust - £3,000 requested – applied for funding towards the renovation of a community building;
  - Loughborough Town Cricket Club - £2,932 requested – applied for funding towards accessible doors;
  - The Generator Loughborough CIC - £20,000 requested – applied for funding towards building works/ventilation system for the Loughborough Generator Project.
3. That the following Community Facilities Grant applications be declined:
  - South Croxton Village Hall Group - £5,795 requested – applied for funding towards the 'Play a Part' disabled access project;
  - Upstarts Gymnastics Club - £9,794 requested – applied for funding towards the installation of a raised pit with soft landing areas.
4. 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 Facilities Grants scheme.
2. To enable further work to be undertaken with the applicant to see whether the application can be improved and strengthened.
3. 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.
4. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the project.

## Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

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

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

## Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Community Facilities 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 and £3,200 was awarded in Round Two, leaving a balance of £127,100. Eight applications were received for funding in Round Three 2021/22, and three grants were awarded at a total of up to £22,797 by the grants panel, with three deferred and two declined, and therefore the balance remaining for future rounds of the Community Facilities Grants scheme is £104,303.

### 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](mailto:julie.robinson@charnwood.gov.uk)

Verity Graham  
Neighbourhoods & Partnerships Co-ordinator  
01509 632516  
[verity.graham@charnwood.gov.uk](mailto:verity.graham@charnwood.gov.uk)

## **Part B**

### **Community Facilities Grants**

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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**

5. Eight applications were received for the Community Facilities Grants in Round Three for 2021/22. The applications were assessed against the grants criteria and three were recommended for funding, three recommended for deferral, and two recommended for declining.

**New Life Community Church – Score 41.9 – Recommendation to award up to £11,000**

6. New Life Community Church provides an all-inclusive community space where everyone is welcome, irrespective of background or religion. Their community outreach combines an established Trussell Trust Foodbank and a professional CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Debt Counselling Service. Their overall aim is to connect with, and sustainably lift out of poverty, those in their community who are most vulnerable, poor and excluded. They are passionate about reaching out to, and improving the lives of, disadvantaged individuals and families.
7. The application is for funding towards building a Meeting Room extension at the rear of the premises. This will provide the space needed to continue and further their community services. The meeting room will be used for a variety of purposes to benefit the community, and specifically clients who use their Foodbank and Debt Centre services. The meeting room will provide a comfortable, private space for one-to-one and group meetings to take place. The meeting Room will measure 7x3m. At present they lack the suitable space where individual or group meetings can take place away from the noise and distraction other activities such as foodbank activity. Vitally, this meeting room will provide a safe and private place for clients to talk, fill out personal paperwork, make sensitive phone calls and attend confidential meetings. Many of their clients are dealing with complex and difficult issues (such as debt, bereavement, domestic abuse, mental health and unemployment).
8. The benefits of the project include:
  - A space to host their Jobs Club (currently in the process of being set up) that supports people back into permanent paid work;
  - A place to host their Mental Health Support Groups to improve clients' mental wellbeing and resiliency;
  - A space for the CAP Debt Centre Manager to meet with clients to resolve debt/budgeting issues;
  - A place for distressed or upset clients to have a quiet and private place to be.
9. The application of £13,870 is for 46% of the total scheme costs of £30,170.
10. The Panel scored this scheme at 41.9 and recommends that a grant of up to £11,000 be awarded.
11. This was a high scoring application due to the organisation providing support in the wider community particularly for people with mental health and/or financial difficulties. Whilst it is a church building, the Panel are happy that the organisation offers non-religious support to all areas of the community regardless of their religious backgrounds. The Panel noted that project costs have increased, however the organisation has significant reserves ring-fenced for the project, and they have also secured £16,300 with a successful application for funding to the Trussell Trust.

**Barrow Community Library – Score 43.9 – Recommendation to award up to £4,000 subject to confirmation of lease extension**

12. Barrow Community Library aims to bring together organisations and local residents to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the condition of life for local residents. It also aims to establish or secure the establishment of a Community Centre ("the Centre") and to maintain and manage, or to co-operate with any local statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the Association and its constituent bodies.
13. BUSCA operates Barrow upon Soar Community Library as one of its activities. The organisation has to generate income in order to pay for the running costs of the library. The applicant is requesting funding towards the cost of installing a Solar PV Energy System at Barrow Community Library. The system will generate 4,750kWh of energy in the first year of operation, and similar amounts each subsequent year. This will reduce their energy bills by about £800 a year as well as being a contribution towards reducing CO2 emissions and global warming. Barrow Community Library is a very well used facility within the community. As a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, which has reduced their income streams, they are now running at an annual loss, and need to make costs savings so that they can continue to provide the service. They have already installed Air Source Heat Pumps to provide energy efficient heating and cooling for the library without using fossil fuels. This project will reduce their energy bills by harnessing energy from the sun to generate electricity for use in the library and to feed into the national grid.
14. The benefits of the project include:
  - Reduction in energy bills, leading to further activities being delivered;
  - Will allow the Community Library to continue operating and reduce running costs;
  - A wide range of service users will be able to continue using the facility.
15. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“I am very happy to support this application as laid out in the paperwork.”

“I’m happy to support this grant application.”
16. The application of £4,221 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £8,443.
17. The Panel scored this scheme at 43.9 and recommends that a grant of up to £4,000 be awarded, subject to confirmation of the organisation’s lease extension.
18. The Panel felt that this was a strong application relating to an energy-related project, which is a current issue and links well with caring for the environment.

The community library is a well-used resource that is used for a wide range of activities and groups. The Panel felt that the project will help enhance community use going forward, by helping the organisation to manage their expenditure in the long-term, allowing them to open for longer hours and therefore be accessible to more groups. The Panel discussed the situation with the organisation's lease, and would like confirmation from the applicant that this is in place and how long the lease will run.

**Fearon Hall Community Association – Score 48.8 – Recommendation to award up to £7,797 subject to confirmation of match funding**

19. Fearon Community Association (FCA) strive to be a vibrant and welcoming organisation that is financially viable to enable them to make a positive difference to the people of Loughborough, particularly those in the Lemyngton and Hastings Wards. FCA works from and manages Fearon Hall. Their work covers three key areas: People, Place and Space.

Space is particularly important in this particular application:

- To enable Fearon Hall to be a resource to the local community, providing facilities and equipment for use by community groups;
  - To offer affordable space for private bookings, parties and special events;
  - To provide rooms, equipment and services for use by local businesses and organisations to hire;
  - To maintain and improve the building they manage to ensure it is accessible and fit for purpose for users for many years to come;
  - To maximise revenue created by providing a desirable, viable venue for hire to enable them to fund and expand their delivery activities for the benefit of the community they support.
20. Fearon Hall is a Victorian era building that only has access to the first floor via three flights of stairs. This limits their ability to offer full access to all service users for those events and activities that are more suited to the upstairs environment. Specifically, the two recently refurbished rooms and the ballroom for local community hire, evening events, free at the point of entry community activities including access to education and training in line with their Strategic Partner delivery. They have conducted a feasibility study on the installation of a lift. However, this is currently beyond the economic scope of the Association. To comply with the Disability Discrimination Act for a building of its age they need to prove best endeavour. In this instance a stair lift is a good and achievable compromise.
21. The benefits of the project include:
- Improved access to the building for people with limited mobility and/or disabilities;
  - Improved training facilities for self-development opportunities;
  - Improved local amenities and facilities for people in the local area;
  - Will make better use of their existing building;

- The work will be carried out by a local business.
22. The application of £7,797 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £15,594.
  23. The Panel scored this scheme at 48.8 and recommends that a grant of up to £7,797 be awarded subject to confirmation of match-funding.
  24. The application was very high scoring, due to the need of the hall to create disability access to the upstairs rooms. The works will ensure that many more members of the community will be able to access activities, groups and events which they were previously unable to attend. The Panel note that the organisation is unable to fund the installation of a lift, and feel that the installation of a stair-lift is a good compromise.

### **Bradgate Park Trust – Score 32– Recommendation to defer to a future round**

25. The Bradgate Park Trust (The Trust) are a registered charity caring for the wildlife and heritage rich landscapes of Bradgate Park and Swithland Wood. As a treasured, publicly accessible space within the Charnwood Forest, the site is at the heart of social, recreational, and educational activity for communities in the borough. The Trust's work is guided by two key objectives:
  - The provision, maintenance and improvement of the park and recreation ground for the inhabitants of Leicestershire;
  - To advance the education of the public in appreciation and care for the environment.
26. Better Together at Bradgate is a project that will see the regeneration of a derelict stone-built restroom facility — it will bring to life what is currently an abandoned structure to provide an essential area for volunteers to access necessary equipment and connect in a purpose designed space. The building will also offer an adjoining store for the park's off-road mobility scooter. The renovation will include the creation of an access track leading up to the building, installation of LED lighting, plumbing works and the addition of double doors to improve access. The current volunteer building has noticeably deteriorated over time. The new facility will house all essential volunteer equipment including uniforms, two-way communication radios and first aid equipment alongside volunteer notice boards to further develop multi-channel communication. The area will also facilitate the provision of hot drinks for volunteers to chat and connect. As well as showcasing appreciation for their hard work, this will directly support those hoping to use volunteering as an opportunity to socialise and meet like-minded individuals.

Adjoining the volunteer space will be secure storage for several off-road mobility scooters. At present the Trust has one mobility scooter at the Deer Barn complex, situated at the centre of the park, which is transported to the main car park for collection. This often creates a lengthy and disjointed experience for visitors and staff alike. Having the vehicle permanently at the project facility will allow users to experience a more efficient process.



27. The Local Ward Councillor was consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:

“It may be possible to also use this facility to complete surgeries with local residents by the Police.

In principle, I support the application, the volunteers do good work to keep Bradgate Park to a high standard for the benefit of the people of Charnwood and beyond.”

28. The application of £3,000 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £6,000.
29. The panel scored this scheme at 32 and recommends that the application be deferred to a future round.
30. The Panel discussed whether or not the application meets the criteria of the scheme, and whilst there is a disabled access element with the storing of the trampers, it was felt that they allow access to an outside area rather than a building, and that therefore this facility did not meet the criteria of the grants scheme, since the environmental element of the scheme was removed in 2021. In general, the Panel recognise that this is a good project, particularly for the volunteers, however it was also felt that the building renovation itself would not be benefitting the wider community. The Panel did however wonder whether the space could potentially be used by other groups, and would like to work with the organisation to identify ways of widening community benefit, and strengthening their application.

**Loughborough Town Cricket Club – Score 20.2 – Recommendation to defer to a future round**

31. The club was first established in 1896. The objectives of the club are:
- The provision of facilities for the playing of cricket and other sporting and social activities;
  - The provision and maintenance of a club house on the club's land at Park Road, Loughborough;
  - To ensure a duty of care to all members of the club by adopting the England Cricket Board's (ECB) "Safe Hands – Cricket's Policy for Safeguarding Children", and the ECB's Cricket Equality Policy;
  - To ensure that all members abide by the ECB Code of Conduct;
  - To encourage all members of the club to participate fully in club activities;
  - To adopt and implement the ECB Club inclusion and diversity policy.
32. The application is for funding towards the cost of the replacement of two sets of UPVC double doors and frames, which provide access from the clubroom to the veranda and patio. The high thresholds of the frame mean that accessibility is limited for those with wheelchairs and pushchairs. They are a risk to people with visual and/or mobility impairments. The current doors are of a 'domestic' quality, and therefore haven't coped well with the degree of use. The club

would like to replace them with new doors and frames of commercial quality, compliant with accessibility thresholds, a concealed panic bar mechanism, anti-finger trap stiles, and a “hold-open” facility, thereby addressing all current deficiencies of the existing doors and frames.

33. The application of £2,932 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £5,865.
34. The panel scored this scheme at 20.2 and recommends that the application be deferred to a future round.
35. The Panel felt that the club had not sufficiently translated their work into the application form, and it was unclear what the application was for, and how the club would look at community use going forward. Officers confirmed that the club’s sports provision is good, and that there is a wide range of other community groups that use the clubhouse, however the Covid-19 pandemic had put a halt to some groups using the facility. Officers also confirmed the group has been pro-active in the past applying for project funding. The Panel on the whole were unsure of the benefits of the new doors, it was unclear what the ECB grant would be used for, and clarification would be needed with regard to the finances. Recognising the good work that the club does, the Panel would like to offer the club a chance to re-visit their application, as they feel that there are elements that could be strengthened for a future round of the grants scheme.

**The Generator Loughborough CIC – Score 33 – Recommendation to defer to a future round**

36. 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.
37. The application is for funding towards the creation within the building of an outstanding venue for Arts performance, conferences, exhibitions and events as well as flexible space for use by local artists, community groups and creative businesses. The works will be carried out in Phases, with Phase 1 (which is the subject of this application) bringing forward into use the Generator Hall, the ground floor of the 2 storey wedge building and the basement. It is this Phase of works which has been included as a project in the Loughborough Town Deal at £1.6m submitted to MCHLG on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2021. The main hall will retain its minimalist industrial character but with the addition of a new mezzanine floor, a converted basement and a roof garden. The existing two storey element will be converted to artists’ studios and meeting spaces.
38. The application of £20,000 is for 0.8% of the total scheme costs of £2,500,000.
39. The panel scored this scheme at 33 and recommends that the application be deferred to a future round. Despite the application being re-submitted, the Panel still felt that the start date of the project was outside the terms and

conditions of the grants criteria, that there was still a significant match funding gap whilst outcomes of other external bids were outstanding, and further work would be required to provide further detail on the community engagement programme and benefits to the community.

40. The Panel still feel that there is work to be done to confirm other match funding, that the timing of the application is not right and further evidence of community benefit and how hard to reach groups will be identified and benefit from the project. The application had identified ventilation costs as being what the grant would be used for, however the Panel questioned how the ventilation could be funded in isolation from the rest of the building project. For the above reasons, the Panel recommend deferring the application to a future Round.

#### **South Croxton Village Hall Group – Not scored – Recommendation to decline**

41. South Croxton Village Hall is a community facility for the residents of a rural village and other villages in close proximity, in the southern parts of the Borough of Charnwood. South Croxton Village Hall committee consists of 5 members volunteering in the roles of Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and other roles related to the day to day running of the hall. It is a small community with limited community facilities that include a village hall, playground and public house. The key aims of the group are: to provide community facilities and activities without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions and in particular for use for community meetings, lectures and classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.
42. The application is for funding towards the Play-A-Part project, which is intended to improve community engagement with the natural environment, both recognised as important to people's physical and mental well-being and more so during the Covid-19 pandemic in an area of severe rural isolation. The village's only open space is adjacent to the Village Hall and has limited access to village hall users and the general public. Access will be improved through phase one of a wider project to allow easier physical and disabled access to areas of rest and relaxation, play facilities for which phase two funding is required and activities to engage with nature and gardening. The existing pathway is located on a large bank of earth from the carpark, and is steep and inaccessible to many people. Improvement requires major excavation work and redesigning to ensure accessibility to wheelchair users
43. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application and comments were received as follows:  
  
"I fully support this project. The Play a Part Project will provide much needed community facilities in a rural location. There have been extensive consultation in the village. I have attended the consultation meetings and have noted the support for this project by a wide spectrum of local residents."
44. The application of £5,795 is for 50% of the total scheme costs of £11,590.
45. The Panel were unable to score the application, due to it not meeting the criteria of the scheme.

46. Whilst the Panel recognise the good work of the village hall, and the benefits the hall brings to the community, the application was for funding towards a path from the car park to an upper-field area, and not to the building. The Community Facilities Grant scheme no longer supports the environmental element, and can only support access to community buildings, and therefore it was felt that the application unfortunately did not meet the criteria of the scheme.

#### **Upstarts Gymnastics Club – Not scored – Recommendation to decline**

47. Upstarts Gymnastics Club was formed in 2012. The key aims and objectives of the Club are:
- To provide excellent coaching and facilities for gymnasts from pre-school to adult;
  - To provide coaching, mentoring and development opportunities in Gymnastics;
  - To promote the club within the local community of Charnwood and Leicestershire;
  - To prudently manage Upstarts Gymnastics Club;
  - To exercise a duty of care to all members of the Club;
  - To provide all its services in a way that is fair to everyone.
48. The club's project, the subject of this grant application, is part of their masterplan which is to acquire and move to a new and larger gym during 2023. Landing-pits will be an integral feature of the new gym. This project is being implemented now, for some key reasons:
- Landing-pit facilities are currently hired at the Loughborough University Gymnastics Centre, on a regular basis;
  - The club has been informed by the University that the Centre will close in March 2022;
  - The club's coaches consider that landing-pits are essential, enabling their gymnasts to develop new skills with confidence and, of course, safety;
  - Landing-pits have required either in-floor excavations, or permanent above-floor constructions;
  - Technical innovations in gymnastics equipment mean it is possible to install an above-floor landing pit that does not require construction work and can be re-located to our new gym at minimal cost. This equipment is a raised pit with soft landing areas.
49. The Raised Pit with Soft Landing Areas will be installed at their current premises in Hathern. They are currently looking for larger premises, within Charnwood, intending to move during 2023. The larger site will enable them to double the area of specialised flooring and to relocate the raised pit with soft landing areas.
50. Local Ward Councillors were consulted on the application, however no comments were received.

51. The application of £9,794 is for 49.5% of the total scheme costs of £19,794.
52. The Panel were unable to score the application due to it not meeting the criteria of the scheme.
53. The Panel recognised the value of the club, and how it benefits a wide range of the gymnastics community and also supports disabilities, however the application is for equipment, which is not currently covered by the grants criteria. In addition, the facility is not available for a wide range of community activities.

## Appendices

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

**APPENDIX 1****Round 3 2021/22 - Community Facilities Grants Summary****Opening Budget 2021/23 - £150,300****Balance remaining after Round Two: £127,100****Balance remaining after this round: £104,303**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>Total project cost (£)</b>	<b>Total score</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Grant ref 1336 New Life Community Church	New meeting room	13,870	30,170	41.9	Award up to £11,000
Grant ref 1337 Barrow Community Library	Solar PV Energy System	4,221	8,443	43.9	Award up to £4,000 subject to confirmation of lease extension
Grant ref 1339 Fearon Hall Community Association	Disability access	7,797	15,594	48.8	Award up to £7,797 subject to confirmation of match funding

Grant ref 1338 Bradgate Park Trust	Community building renovation	3,000	6,000	32	Defer to a future round
Grant ref 1341 Loughborough Town Cricket Club	Accessible doors	2,932	5,865	20.2	Defer to a future round
Grant ref 1343 The Generator Loughborough CIC	Loughborough Generator Project	20,000	2,500,000	33	Defer to a future round
Grant ref 1340 South Croxton Village Hall Group	'Play a Part' disabled access project	5,795	11,590	Not scored	Decline
Grant ref 1342 Upstarts Gymnastics Club	Installation of raised pit with soft landing areas	9,794	19,794	Not scored	Decline

## 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).

	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Age</b>	There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to Age. Of the grants awarded, there is a reasonable proportionate spread between projects for older and younger people. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Age.
<b>Disability</b> (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.
<b>Gender Reassignment</b> (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.
<b>Race</b>	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.
<b>Religion or Belief</b> (Includes no belief)	<p>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.</p> <p>The impact is therefore neutral with regards to the protected characteristic of religion or belief with the acknowledged that wider benefits are created for the wider community.</p>
<b>Sex</b> (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.
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	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.
<b>Other protected groups (Pregnancy &amp; maternity, marriage &amp; civil partnership)</b>	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.
<b>Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)</b>	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: <b>The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan</b>			
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?	✓	

<b>Please delete as appropriate</b>
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.](#)