



Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

This EqIA is for:

LOCAL COMMUNITIES FUND (LCF)

Details are set out:

**COMMITTEE REPORT - LOCAL COMMUNITIES FUND (LCF) –
RECOMMENDATIONS – 9TH MARCH 2022**

Officers undertaking the
assessment:

**Mark Walker. Group Manager
Cathy Harvey. Communities Team Manager**

Assessment approved by:

Derek Higton Service Director

Date: **7th MARCH
2022**

The Public Sector Equality Duty which is set out in the Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, and victimisation; Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The purpose of carrying out an Equality Impact Assessment is to assess the impact of a change to services or policy on people with protected characteristics and to demonstrate that the Council has considered the aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Part A: Impact, consultation, and proposed mitigation

1 What are the potential impacts of the proposal? *Has any initial consultation informed the identification of impacts?*

The Local Communities Fund is a new discretionary Grant Funding Programme. The scheme is the successor to the previous Local Improvement Scheme that ran for 4 years ending 31st March 2022. The Local Community Fund focusses on providing financial support as a contribution enabling the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) groups to increase capacity and reach beneficiaries, existing and new in addition to creating new services and activities. On 15 September 2021 the Communities Committee approved the development and launch of a discretionary funding programme designed to support the voluntary and community sector to help the Council to deliver on its commitments in its 10 year-plan. The Local Communities Fund (LCF), is focussed on helping our people to live healthier and more independent lives; supporting communities and families; keeping children, vulnerable adults, and communities safe; protecting the environment and reducing our carbon footprint which creates empowered and self-sufficient local communities and in turn supports the voluntary and community sector to grow and thrive.

The scheme has been designed based on learning from previous schemes to be more inclusive and allow funding to be made available in a fairer and more inclusive way. Further a larger proportion of the funding was made available to talented athletes particularly those with disabilities.

There has been an excellent response from the Community to the opening of the programmes. 95 applications have been received for revenue funding, 12 for capital funding and 77 for talented athletes funding. The value of the ask is £2.8m. Applications which are recommended for funding at 9th March 2022 Committee include:

58 Large Revenue applications to the value of £1,048,933
 12 Small Revenue applications to the value of £48,582
 12 Capital applications to the value of £133,048 and
 75 Talented Athlete applications to the value of £50,000.

The experience of and learning taken from the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the important role that the VCS plays in supporting communities. The Council have designed the New LCF to:

- Provide a commitment to funding trusted VCS partners with a track record for 4 years and by doing so giving them greater security to build capacity and attract other funding to support some of the most vulnerable Nottinghamshire residents.
- Provide an annual rolling programme of grants of up to £5k to support innovative grass root community projects that help improve residents lives
- Provide an annual rolling programme of capital grants to support communities to for example improve and make community spaces accessible.
- To support talented athletes with an expanded funding programme which encourages applications from those with the greatest challenges.

2 Protected Characteristics: Is there a potential positive or negative impact based on:

Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Pregnancy & maternity	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Race <small>Including ethnic origin, colour or nationality</small>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Sex (gender)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
Sexual orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact

Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/> Positive	<input type="checkbox"/> Negative	<input type="checkbox"/> Neutral Impact
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3 Where there are potential negative impacts for protected characteristics these should be detailed including consideration of the equality duty, proposals for how they could be mitigated (where possible) and meaningfully consulted on:

How do the potential impacts affect people with protected characteristics <i>What is the scale of the impact?</i>	How might negative impact be mitigated or explain why it is not possible	How will we consult
The impact of providing this funding will benefit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisations including Citizens Advice Bureau, Disability Notts & Age UK will be funded to provide 	There are no negative impacts in that this is a new programme of additional discretionary funding which provides financial support to voluntary and community groups as a contribution towards services and activities which help improve resident's lives. Many of these	Funded groups and Talented Athletes will be supported throughout the funding period through monitoring and officer support. This scheme has been developed following discussions and

<p>information and advice on debt and welfare support issues to residents with protected characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of residents to access locally delivered interventions which tackle loneliness & isolation • Residents with disabilities to access community transport services • 12 Para talented athletes with protected characteristics to receive funding 	<p>groups support those with protected characteristics.</p>	<p>consultations with infrastructure groups, funded groups, talented athletes throughout the course of the previous scheme and through other funds provided to assist with pandemic response and recovery.</p>
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Part B: Feedback and further mitigation

4 Summary of consultation feedback and further amendments to proposal / mitigation

There are no amendments to the proposal.

Completed EqIAs should be sent to equalities@nottsc.gov.uk for publishing on the Council's website before any decision is made.