

Equality Impact Assessment

2017/18 Grant Recommendations



What is being assessed?	2017/18 Grant Recommendations
Department	Partnerships
Name of assessor	Stella Keen
Strategic Management Lead	Rachel O'Reilly
Date of assessment	06/01/17
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Existing

Section 1: Introduction and background (see p.10 of the guidance)

Please describe your service or function. This should include:

- **The aims and scope**
- **The main beneficiaries or users**
- **The main equality, accessibility, social exclusion issues and barriers, and the 'protected characteristics'¹ they relate to (not all assessments will encounter issues relating to every protected characteristic)**

If this EIA is part of a project it is important to focus on the service or policy the project aims to review or improve.

Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) recognises the significant contribution made by the voluntary, community and faith sector (VCFS) in providing projects and services that improve the social, environmental and economic well-being of our District. MVDC operates a grants process which provides funding to organisations that help the Council to meet its priorities and build capacity within communities.

There are no restrictions on which organisations can apply for a grant as long as they can demonstrate that they are constituted and are able to provide the required health and safety and financial evidence; the Grants Policy sets out the procedure and criteria for grant applications.

All capital grant applications, including the Surrey Community Building grants, are for capital which is used for providing infrastructure to benefit the local community.

The deadline for submission of applications to the Council's Grant Aid for 2017/18 was 30th September 2016 and there were 13 revenue and 4 capital applications made.

In addition to the applications received, it is proposed that a Small Grants Community Fund of £18,500 is established for applications up to £5,000 throughout 2017/18.

In total the capital and revenue expenditure proposed to be allocated to community and voluntary groups for 2017/18 is £273,492, which compares with a total of £279,328 in 2016/17.

¹ More information and definition of protected characteristics can be found [here](#)

Now describe how this fits into the Council's Corporate Priorities, Sustainable Community Strategy or other local, regional or national plans and priorities.

Each grant is individually assessed against the Council's corporate priorities. Grant applications must address at least one corporate priority in order to be considered for a grant.

Overall the provision of grants to community and voluntary sectors contributes to the priority of Community Wellbeing by supporting the specific actions to:

- Improve opportunities for residents to live active lives
- Promote community spirit, encourage individuals, families and communities to support each other and help our neighbourhoods to be more resilient in times of need

If you are not carrying out an equality impact assessment, briefly summarise reasons why you have reached this conclusion, the evidence for this and the nature of any stakeholder verification of your conclusion.

Section 2: Analysis and assessment (see pp. 10-13 of the guidance)

Given available information, what is the actual or likely impact on minority, disadvantaged, vulnerable and socially excluded groups?

Indicate for each 'protected characteristics' whether there may be a positive impact, negative impact, a mixture of both or no impact.

Protected characteristics	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reason
Age	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership grant will help maintain transport for rural communities which are likely to include elderly people. • The grant for the Chart Downs Community Centre and Social Club will go towards creating a space where clubs and activities such as bingo can be held for the elderly.
Disability	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grant for the Chart Downs Community Centre and Social Club will go

				towards creating an accessible toilet. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wotton Village Hall grant will go towards improving the disabled access.
Gender reassignment			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Marriage and civil partnership			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy and maternity	√			The grant for the Chart Downs Community Centre and Social Club will go towards the installation of a baby changing facility.
Race			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Religion or belief			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Sex			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Sexual orientation			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Other aspects to consider	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reason
Carers			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this aspect of consideration.
Rural/urban issues	√			The East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership grant will help maintain transport for rural communities.
HR issues (how will staff with protected characteristics be affected?)			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this aspect of consideration.

What can be done to reduce the effects of any negative impacts? Where negative impact cannot be completely diminished, can this be justified, and is it lawful?

Where there are positive impacts, what changes have been or will be made? Who are the beneficiaries? How have they benefited?

It has been recommended to the Executive that grants are awarded in relation to all applications submitted for 2017/18.

The grants will benefit a wide range of people in Mole Valley including those who:

- suffer from rural isolation
- are elderly
- have a disability
- are deprived or disadvantaged

It should be noted that capital grants for the improvement of community buildings are only awarded where there are no restrictions on user groups and particular consideration is given to projects where disabled access and other facilities are being improved.

It is recommended that a three year grant be awarded to Citizens Advice Mole Valley (CAMV) who provide to a small, but vulnerable proportion of the community in the district. CAMV receive a significant proportion of the total grants awarded and although the recommended grant is less than the figure applied for this will allow £18,500 to be used to establish a small-grants fund. This small-grants fund will enable the Council to spread its grant funding capability further across the district.

Section 3: Evidence gathering and fact-finding (see p.14 of the guidance)

What evidence is available to support your views above? Please include:

- A summary of the available evidence
- Identification of where there are gaps in the evidence (this may identify a need for more evidence in the action plan)
- What information is currently captured with respect to usage and take up of services.
- What the current situation is in relation to equality and diversity monitoring (where relevant)

The grant application forms include a section which asks applicants to specify who will benefit from the purpose of the grant. This information is used as part of the assessment process when deciding on recommendations.

Within a twelve month period or at the completion of the project, whichever is the

soonest, all successful applicants are required to submit a report confirming that the intended outcomes of the grant have been met.

How have stakeholders been involved in this assessment? Who are they, and what is their view?

The grants are publicised through press releases, social media, the Council's website, Council's magazine, multi-agency meetings and by email. Grant applications were invited for submission between 1st April 2016 and 30th September 2016. Applications received were scored against the criteria set out in the Grants Policy. The scores were then used by Officers and the responsible Executive Member in determining a recommendation in relation to each grant application. A report containing the recommendations is presented to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration and this is also made publicly available on the Council's website. The final report is then submitted to the Executive Committee to determine the decision on grants awarded.

Recommendations

Please summarise the main recommendations arising from the assessment. NB If it is impossible to diminish negative impacts to an acceptable or even lawful level the recommendation should be that the proposal or the relevant part of it should not proceed.

Section 4: Action Plan (see pp.15-16 of the guidance)

Actions needed to implement the EIA recommendations

Issue	Action	Expected outcome	Who	Deadline for action

Sign off

Who will be responsible for reviewing this EIA?	Stella Keen
Review date(s) i.e. when will this EIA be reviewed – see p.9 of guidance	December 2017
Strategic Management Lead signed off	

- Signed off electronic version to be kept in your team for review
- Electronic copy to be forwarded to the Policy and Performance Team for publishing