

Equality Impact Assessment

2022/23 Grant Recommendations

Section 1: Introduction and background

What is being assessed?	2022/23 Grant Recommendations
Business unit	Community Safety and Enforcement
Job title of assessor	Helen Wilson
Strategic Management Lead	Rachel O'Reilly
Date of assessment	29/11/2021
Is this a new or existing function or policy?	Existing

Description of the function or policy, including:

- **The aims and scope**
- **The main beneficiaries or users**
- **The main equality issues and barriers, and the protected characteristics¹ they relate to (not all assessments will encounter issues relating to every protected characteristic).**

This Equality Impact Assessment considers the Grants made in 21/22 only in relation to the capital grants.

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 are for capital which is used for providing infrastructure to benefit the local community.

The deadline for submission of applications to the Council's Grants programme for 2022/23 was 30th September 2021 and there were five capital applications made.

In total the capital expenditure proposed to be allocated to community and voluntary groups for 2022/23 is £35,000, which compares with a total of £67,500 in 2021/22.

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

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

As is proposed in the Budget Setting report (also on this agenda) that increased promotion of alternative sources of funding for small scale grants, including the recently launched Mole Valley Community Lottery, has led to the conclusion that

¹The protected characteristics are age, sex, disability, pregnancy and maternity, race and ethnicity, religion and belief, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, and marriage and civil partnership (Source: Equality Act 2010)

the Small Community Grants scheme can be closed from 2022/23. A separate Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted on this proposal and is included in the main Budget Setting Report.

Description of how the function or policy fits into the Council's Corporate Priorities 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:

- Promote opportunities for residents of all ages to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Foster community spirit, encouraging individuals, families and communities to support each other especially in times of particular need
- Promote opportunities for people with special needs

Section 2: Analysis and assessment

Indicate for each protected characteristic whether there may be a positive impact, negative impact, a mixture of both or no impact – using a tick <input type="checkbox"/> in the appropriate columns				
Protected characteristics	Positive	Negative	No impact	Reason
Age	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant for Chart Downs Community Centre will improve facilities for the elderly. The grant for Wescott Sports Club will improve access to sports facilities for children and young people.
Sex			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Disability	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant for Westcott Sports Club will improve access to sports facilities for people with disabilities.
Pregnancy and maternity	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grant for Chart Downs Community Centre will provide improved facilities for new mothers.
Race and ethnicity			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Religion and belief			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.
Gender reassignment			√	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.
Marriage and civil partnership			√	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 protected characteristic.
Rural/urban access issues	√			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The grants for Chart Downs Community Centre and Headley Village Hall will provide improved facilities for the local community. The grant to Westcott Sports Club will improve access to sports facilities for people in the surrounding villages.
HR issues (how will staff with protected characteristics be affected?)			√	It is not anticipated that the grants will have any specific impact on this protected characteristic.

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?

N/A

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 Cabinet that four of the five capital grant applications that were submitted for 2022/23 are awarded funding.

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

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

It should be noted that capital grants for the improvement of community buildings are only awarded where there are no restrictions on user groups.

Section 3: Evidence gathering and fact-finding

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?

Applications received were scored against the criteria set out in the Grants Policy. The scores were then used by Officers and the responsible Cabinet Member in determining a recommendation in relation to each grant application. A report containing the recommendations and the Equality Impact Assessment 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 Cabinet to determine the decision on grants awarded.

No other stakeholders were involved in the completion of this Equality Impact Assessment.

Recommendations

Summary of the main recommendations (if any) arising from the assessment

There are no recommendations arising from this assessment.

Section 4: Action Plan

Actions needed to implement the EqlA recommendations (if any)

Issue	Action	Expected outcome	Who	Deadline for action
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A