

Equality Impact Assessment



Name of project/proposal

Community Buildings Capital Fund, applications for £25,000 and over

Contact name

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Department

Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose for project/proposal

This EIA focuses on the Community Buildings Capital Fund 2015/16 (requests for £25,000 and over). This was a one-off funding opportunity funded through Policy and Resources, based on a similar one-off scheme previously funded through Culture, Community and Business Services. Although the grant scheme criteria were not altered, the change in funding source meant a review of the equality impact assessment was recommended. An assessment was previously carried out, but was not submitted for publication.

£1million was allocated to the scheme for awards of up to £150,000 for capital projects which substantially increased the usage of a community building or enabled joint use of a building by the merger of two or more groups. The programme was not designed to be overly prescriptive and developed innovative ideas for projects were encouraged.

Eligible organisations were:

- Village halls (not parish-run halls)
- Community associations
- Charitable and voluntary organisations which offer a full and varied open access community programme. These organisations had to be properly constituted with clear and effective local governance and management structures.

To be eligible, capital based projects had to fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Building repairs, extensions and refurbishments
- Capital improvements that reduce running costs
- Health and Safety issues
- Equipment that will become a permanent fixture within the building which improves access and/or increases usage (the exception to this are tables, chairs and storage units which will also be funded)
- Capital based feasibility studies.

More detailed criteria were as the ongoing Community Buildings Capital Fund

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/grants/ccbs-grants/community-buildings-capital-fund.htm>

Applications could be for between £25,000 and £150,000 and there was no requirement for a set level of match funding. Expressions of Interest and Applications could be made online or in hard copy and forms could be made available in alternative formats. Short-listed projects were invited to make a presentation to the sub-committee of the Policy and Resources Select Committee who made recommendations on the grants. There was no prescribed format to these presentations and a self-selected team of representatives was welcome from each short-listed application. Officers liaised with the teams to ensure any access or additional needs were met.

Applications were expected to show evidence of local community consultation. Individual Members were consulted on applications received from organisations in their divisions.

Decisions on awards were made by the Executive Member for Policy and Resources, with recommendations from a sub-committee of the Policy and Resources Select Committee.

Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

No

There was not a formal consultation on the grant criteria. Criteria were based on previously run community building capital schemes. Feedback from organisations from previously run schemes informed the development and management of the scheme.

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age	Low
Disability	Low
Sexual orientation	Low
Race	Low
Religion and belief	Low

Gender reassignment	None
Sex	Low
Marriage and civil partnership	None
Pregnancy and maternity	Low
Other policy considerations	
Poverty	Low
Rurality	Low
Other factors	None
If other please describe	

Geographical impact All Hampshire
Have you identified any medium or high impact?* Yes No

Why do you consider that your project/proposal will have low or no impact?
Although positive impacts in areas where organisations were successful in applying for funding may be significant, the overall impact was assessed as low due to the small number of projects supported.

Organisations applying to the scheme are by their nature defined as accessible to all members of the community. This is embodied within their charitable objects, therefore no groups or characteristics should be excluded from any benefit arising from these decisions. The application procedure included equalities monitoring information.

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The scheme was open to organisations from across Hampshire and there were no prescribed levels of match-funding required so organisations in smaller communities (more likely to be rural) and communities with lower economic status where the ability to raise significant sums through local fundraising can be more limited will not have been disadvantaged.

The assessment process included consideration of the needs of each applicant's local community in terms of deprivation, vulnerable groups and equalities. These issues were explored at a Members panel where shortlisted organisations were interviewed.

Final decision date

Final decision date due	18 Sep 2014
Decision to be made by	Executive Member