

**SP23 Equality Impact Assessment – CCBS Recreation and Heritage Community Fund Efficiencies - service users**

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**Section one – information about the service and service change**

<b>Service affected</b>	<b>Recreation and Heritage Community Fund in Hampshire providing one-off revenue and capital grant awards to community and cultural organisations.</b>
<b>Please provide a short description of the service / policy/project/project phase</b>	The grants scheme provides funding for community and cultural organisations in Hampshire, through revenue or capital support from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund, to enable them to provide a benefit to their local community. The grant scheme was established in 2019/20, moving from ongoing grant funding to organisations through the separate Culture and Recreation Investment Fund and Community Investment Fund, to one-off awards via the newly created Recreation and Heritage Community Fund as an amalgamation of the Culture and Community Activity Grants and the Community Buildings Capital Fund, both of which also offered one-off

	awards. The new Fund supports applications that provide community benefit. The support provided by the grant scheme includes funding for events and activities for the local community, revenue funding for community organisations, and capital project funding such as building improvements to cultural and community venues.
<b>Please explain the new/changed service/policy/project</b>	Over recent years, the grants budget has decreased in line with the budget reductions for the County Council. This led to a managed reduction in the numbers and value of awards through the previous Culture and Recreation Investment Fund and Community Investment Fund, and subsequently to the establishment of the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund for one-off projects only. From 2021/22 the proposal is to transfer £230,000 of the community grant funding annual budget from the CCBS Recreation and Heritage Community Fund over to the Leaders' and Members Grant Funds, as a permanent commitment. This will enable cultural and community organisations who wish to apply for grant support, to continue to do so through direct application to the organisations' local County Councillor Grant scheme. The remaining £600,000 from the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund will be given up as an SP23 saving with effect from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023.

### Engagement and consultation

The County Council's *Serving Hampshire Balancing the Budget* consultation (2021-2023) will seek residents' and stakeholders' views on strategic options for funding the Authority's budget gap. Where applicable, detailed proposals for making savings will be subject to further, more detailed 'stage two' consultation before any decisions on service specific changes are made.

**Has any pre-consultation engagement been carried out?**

(Delete as appropriate)

	No	
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**Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform.**

Describe who was engaged or consulted. What was the outcome of the activity and how have the results influenced what you are doing? If no consultation or engagement is planned, please explain why.

Due to the substantial number of community groups in Hampshire, historically there has been minimal direct promotion or engagement about community grants funds. Information is instead provided through the CCBS Grants [web pages](#) on the Hampshire County Council website and via signposting through organisations such as Councils for Voluntary Services. Therefore, there are no plans to communicate out the upcoming change in community grant funding widely. However, the community organisations that will be receiving funding from the Recreation and Heritage Investment Fund in 2021/22 will be notified once the new process of applying for grant funding is known, should they wish to apply for grant support in future years. Additionally, any cultural or community organisations in Hampshire who get in touch directly with CCBS Grants staff about grant funding, will be signposted to other internal and external sources of funding and advice.

**Table 1 Impact Assessment**

Protected characteristic (see <a href="#">EIA Guidance</a> for considerations)	Positive	Neutral	Negative - low	Negative - Medium	Negative - High	Affects staff, public or both?
Age			X			Public
Disability			X			Public
Gender reassignment		X				Public
Pregnancy and maternity			X			Public
Race		X				Public

<b>Religion or belief</b>		X				Public
<b>Sex</b>		X				Public
<b>Sexual orientation</b>		X				Public
<b>Marriage &amp; civil partnership</b>		X				Public
<b>Poverty</b>			X			Public
<b>Rurality</b>		X				Public

**Table 2 Geographical impact**

Does the proposal impact on a specific area?

<b>Area</b>	<b>Yes / no</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Yes / no</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Yes / no</b>
All Hampshire	Yes	Fareham		New Forest	
Basingstoke and Deane		Gosport		Rushmoor	
East Hampshire		Hart		Test Valley	
Eastleigh		Havant		Winchester	

**Section three: Equality Statement****Table 3 Consideration of and explanation for neutral or low negative impacts**

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having neutral or low negative impact
Age	<p>Reduced funding opportunities may lead to a delay in cultural and community projects under development while alternative funding sources are identified and secured. In the case of the four community organisations still supported with ongoing revenue funding, reduced funding may lead to a community organisation reducing or withdrawing some of its targeted activities for a variety of age groups who use the facility for activities such as programmes and community clubs for older people, or activity groups and clubs for younger people. The population forecast for Hampshire estimates that the ageing of Hampshire's population is set to continue across the county with the Small Area Population Forecasts suggesting that by 2025 almost 23.3% of Hampshire's population will be aged 65 or older, 12.3% aged 75 or older and 3.8% aged 85 or older. This may indicate a potential increase in the demand for cultural or community organisations to offer activities for older people. Reduced funding may lead to reduced ability of organisations to implement capital improvements such as building extensions and new community facilities for children, families and/or older people.</p> <p>However, organisations will still have the opportunity to apply for grant support to pump-prime activities through their local County Councillor Grant fund.</p> <p>This has been assessed as a low negative impact due to the ability of the cultural or community organisation to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme to enable to continue providing activities for this group, or for other funding sources outside of the County Council for more significant capital improvement projects.</p>
Disability	<p>Reduced funding opportunities may lead to a delay in cultural and community projects under development, including accessibility improvements, while alternative funding sources are identified and secured. In the case of the four community organisations still supported with ongoing funding for 2021/22, any change in funding beyond this may lead to the community organisation reducing or withdrawing its targeted activities for people with disabilities, such as</p>

	<p>development and training opportunities or community clubs. However, organisations will still have the opportunity to apply for grant support through their local County Councillor Grant fund.</p> <p>This has been assessed as a low negative impact due to the ability of the cultural or community organisation to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme to enable to continue providing activities for this group, or for other funding sources outside of the County Council for more significant capital improvement projects.</p>
Gender reassignment	<p>This has been assessed as a neutral impact because the proposed change to the grant fund service is not expected to have a negative impact on this protected characteristic, due to the ability of any cultural or community organisation in Hampshire who may be supporting groups in this particular characteristic, to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme.</p>
Pregnancy and maternity	<p>Reduced funding opportunities may lead to a delay in cultural and community projects under development while alternative funding sources are identified and secured. In the case of the four community organisations still supported with ongoing revenue funding, reduced funding may lead to the community organisation reducing or withdrawing its targeted activities for groups who use the facility such as parenting support groups, or parent and toddler groups.</p> <p>This has been assessed as a low negative impact due to the ability of the cultural or community organisation to seek alternative funding through their local County Councillor Grant scheme, to enable to continue providing activities for this group.</p>
Race	<p>This has been assessed as a neutral impact because the proposed change to the grant fund service is not expected to have a negative impact on this protected characteristic, due to the ability of any cultural or community organisation in Hampshire who may be supporting groups in this particular characteristic, to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme.</p>
Religion or belief	<p>This has been assessed as a neutral impact because the proposed change to the grant fund service is not expected to have a negative impact on this protected characteristic, due to the ability of any cultural or community organisation in Hampshire who may be supporting groups in this particular characteristic, to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme.</p>

Sex	This has been assessed as a neutral impact because the proposed change to the grant fund service is not expected to have a negative impact on this protected characteristic, due to the ability of any cultural or community organisation in Hampshire who may be supporting groups in this particular characteristic, to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme.
Sexual orientation	This has been assessed as a neutral impact because the proposed change to the grant fund service is not expected to have a negative impact on this protected characteristic, due to the ability of any cultural or community organisation in Hampshire who may be supporting groups in this particular characteristic, to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme.
Marriage & civil partnership	This has been assessed as a neutral impact because the proposed change to the grant fund service is not expected to have a negative impact on this protected characteristic, due to the ability of any cultural or community organisation in Hampshire who may be supporting groups in this particular characteristic, to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme.
Poverty	<p>This has been assessed as a low negative impact because of the low numbers of cultural and community organisations in deprived districts of Hampshire who may want to apply for Grant funding to support either revenue activities or capital improvement projects. There is also continued support being provided in 2021/22 for four community organisations delivering neighbourhood services in some of the most deprived wards in Hampshire, through the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund.</p> <p>Community organisations in deprived districts may be less likely to have access to alternative sources of funding such as Parish Councils or local fundraising efforts from members of the community, Also, reduced availability of funding for organisations may lead to a reduction or withdrawal of services for people on low income or who are unemployed. However, these organisations will still be able to apply for Grant funding through the local County Councillor Grant scheme. Any organisation contacting CCBS staff who administer the current grants scheme will be advised about accessing external grants or other funding opportunities. CCBS will continue to provide staff resource to administer open awards through to completion. From the</p>

	current application process and criteria, organisations will already have been aware that funding has only been short term i.e., for 1 financial year, and so they will have applied on this basis.
Rurality	This has been assessed as a neutral impact because the proposed change to the grant fund service is not expected to have a negative impact on this protected characteristic due to the ability of any cultural or community organisation in Hampshire who may be supporting groups in this particular characteristic, to seek alternative funding either through their local County Councillor Grant scheme. Additionally, the County Council currently runs a Rural Community Grant, that rural cultural and community organisations could apply for if their proposal fits the criteria, which includes supporting projects or initiatives that will help build community resilience and / or encourage self-help in rural areas.

**Table 4 Explanation and mitigation for medium and high impacts**

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having medium or high negative impact	Is there a Geographical impact? If so, please explain -use list below to identify geographical area(s)	Short explanation of mitigating actions
N/A			

**Table 5 Consideration of and explanation for positive impacts**

Protected characteristic	Brief explanation of why this has been assessed as having positive impact
N/A	

**Box 1 Please set out any additional information which you think is relevant to this impact assessment:**



The Demand Management and Prevention Change Unit in Adults Health and Care will be ceasing their countywide and local solutions grant awards (targeted to those most at risk of needing social care) on or before 31 March 2023, as an SP23 savings opportunity. We believe there is no overlap with the applications that are funded from the CCBS Recreation and Heritage Community Fund, and therefore see no impact on the CCBS proposal to give up £600,000 as an SP23 savings opportunity.

There are two members of staff who currently administer the Community Grants Funds in CCBS and undertake work areas unrelated to the grants process. Some staff resource will continue to be required for a number of years to administer open awards that have not yet been completed. Therefore, following the transfer of grants over to the Leader's and Members Grant Funds from 2021/22, it is expected that these members of staff will be unaffected by the proposed change.

Smaller cultural or community organisations (in particular, those under pressure due to Covid-19) may be impacted more greatly by the reduction in available funding. The organisations most likely to be adversely affected by this change are cultural or community organisations who are seeking significant capital investment for buildings, where for example a building extension provides increased space which can be let, to generate income for the organisation. In these cases, organisations would instead have to seek alternative funding sources outside of the County Council, and there is guidance available on the County Council website [grant pages](#) to support them to do so. Those organisations seeking smaller one-off, or pump priming funding support are less likely to be affected by this change as they can apply to the local County Councillor Grant scheme.

In 2019/20 there were 93 applications to the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund, with the value of the 57 grants awarded totalling £520,000. Other awards were made to community organisations during 2019/20 financial year, but they were awarded from a separate Legacy Investment Fund which has been phased out. Due to Covid-19, the Recreation and Heritage Community fund was not re-opened during 2020/21, but four community organisations delivering neighbourhood services in some of the most deprived wards in Hampshire have continued to be supported through the Recreation and Heritage Community Fund. In January 2021, applications for 2021/22 grant funding were received from two of these organisations, King Arthur's Way Community Association (previously known as Alamein Community Association) and Wecock Community Association. Both associations are within the top 15% most deprived areas in Hampshire, and their applications were approved. This position has been agreed until the end of the 2021/22 financial year. The two remaining organisations have not yet submitted applications for grant support for 2021/22. From 2022/23, these four organisations will be signposted to apply directly for grant support through the Leader's Grant scheme.

**Box 2**

**If appropriate, (i.e., it is immediately evident that a full EIA is not necessary) please provide a short succinct assessment to show that due regard has been given and that there is no requirement for a full EIA:**

N/A