

CABINET – Thursday 16th January 2025

Report of the Director of Housing and Wellbeing

Lead Member: Councillor Liz Blackshaw

Part A

CHARNWOOD GRANTS – ROUND THREE 2024/2025 CHARNWOOD COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS

Purpose of Report

To enable the Cabinet to consider applications received for funding in round three of the Community Facilities and Community Grants programmes for 2024/25.

Recommendations

1. That the following Community Facilities Grants be awarded:
 - £10,000 to Anstey Church Rooms towards modernising the old toilets in St Mary's Church Rooms
 - £7,591 to Wanlip Church & Community Centre towards the refurbishment of the centre
 - £7,500 to Glenmore Centre, Shepshed towards refurbishment of the centre
 - £4,500 to Wymeswold Memorial Hall for an electricity storage battery to store surplus energy generated by existing solar panels
 - £4,000 to Falcon Support Services towards the replacement of the water cylinder
 - £3,500 to Newtown Linford Cricket Club towards improving club house access and changing facilities
 - £3,436 to Loughborough Greenfields Tennis Club towards essential improvement works to the courts

2. That the following Community Grants be awarded:
 - £4,500 to Charnwood Eco Hub toward start up costs for their community workshop and tool library

- £3,200 to Open Heaven Church towards the running costs of the Loughborough Community Grocery social supermarket
- £3000 to Burton on the Wolds Village Hall towards replacing old tables and chairs
- £3000 to Equality Action Loughborough Mela Project towards the organisational costs of the 2025 Mela event
- £2,500 to Age UK Women and Men in Sheds to support running costs
- £2,000 to Without Walls to support running costs for their Charnwood based Signing Cafes
- £2,000 to United Reform Church Loughborough towards the running costs of their Warm Welcome project
- £1,462 to Countryside Enterprises towards their Seagrave garden project including appropriate seating and tools
- £1,300 to Parish of St James the Great, Birstall towards energy costs for their Warm Space sessions
- £1,200 to Artspace Loughborough towards one Sculpture Workshop for a local voluntary and community group
- £1158 to Shepshed Bowls Club for a set of specialist steps to improve access to the green
- £1,100 to The Fix It Group 23 towards running costs and equipment for their Repair Café
- £1,000 to Inspire Young People and Families Association towards providing support to identified siblings of SEND children
- £1,000 to Anstey Local History Groups towards signage for one of their local village trails

3. That the Director of Housing and Wellbeing be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the awarded Community Grants.

Reasons

1. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Facilities Grants programme.
2. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Grants programme.
3. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the project.

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Council's Corporate Strategy 2024-2028 makes a commitment to deliver high quality living with a range of services to meet the needs of our diverse community. It commits to support the Voluntary and Community Sector and communities with the increased cost of living and through increased activities including (but not exclusively) delivery of the 2024/25 grants programme.

1. At its meeting 7th March 2024, Cabinet agreed
 - That the budget for Community Grants scheme be increased by £75,000 to £138,000, for 2024/2025 grants year, to increase the grants available, with specific consideration for cost of living support and environmental and climate change projects.
 - That the Member Grants scheme be closed, and that for 2024/2025 £13,000 revenue and £13,000 capital budget elements be added to the Community and Facilities Grants schemes respectively.
 - That up to £30,000 be ringfenced from Community Grants in 2024/2025 for grants up to a maximum of £750

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Community Facilities Grants and Community Grants considered in this report will be released, providing they are approved, once the applicants have met any required pre-payment grant conditions. Grant payment terms will be on a grant-by-grant basis, depending on the nature of the organisation / project and level of grant awarded. Payment may be made in stages, and copy invoices, or proof of project expenditure, requested.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

Community Facilities Grant Funding

The Community Facilities Grants budget allocated in the 2024/2025 Capital Plan is £63,000. The opening balance for Round 3 has been increased from £30,527 to

£40,527 due to Charnwood Eco Hub declining the grant award of £10,000, because of changes to the lease agreement which didn't meet their long term needs.

A total of seven facilities applications were received and this report recommends all seven are awarded a total of up to £40,527 resulting in the full allocation of the grant budget for the year.

Community Grant Funding

The 2024/2025 budget for Community Grants is £138,000 which includes £15,900 ringfenced for Loughborough focused projects and up to £30,000 ring fenced for Small Grants.

Due to the high number of applications for Round 3, the Director of Housing & Wellbeing agreed that £13,950 from the Small Grants budget could be transferred to the Community Grants pot. The opening budget for Round 3 will therefore be £28,420.

The Small Grants Budget has £3,750 remaining for applications made before 31st January 2025. A total of £12,300 has been awarded to 18 projects.

This report recommends that fourteen grants are awarded in this round at a total of up to £28,420 resulting in the full allocation of the grant budget for this year.

There have been two expected pressures across the three rounds

1) over-subscription in that the total value of applications is far higher than the total value of funds available to allocate and the grants panel awarded amounts according to how they deliver against priorities

2) there will be increased applications to support new emerging needs including those affecting the more vulnerable members of the borough and those impacted by the cost-of-living crisis and climate change

Risk Management

The risks associated with the decision Cabinet is asked to make and proposed actions to mitigate those risks are set out in the table below.

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Overall Risk	Risk Management Actions Planned
Grants do not deliver the objectives of the Grants scheme	Remote (1)	Minor (1)	Very Low (1)	The grants have been assessed against the criteria and will be supported with appropriate monitoring information.

Equality and Diversity

There is a requirement in the grants criteria for each organisation that applies to either have their own Equal Opportunities Policy or provide a statement that the organisation will abide by the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy.

In addition, an Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and attached at Appendix 3.

Crime and Disorder

Many of the grants awarded support the provision of activities and programmes for both children, young people and adults which contribute towards reducing the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour through the provision of diversionary activity and promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers: None

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PART B

Charnwood Community Grants

1. Charnwood Grants are assessed by Grants Panel members, made up of officers from across the council. The assessment process allows the panel to independently review and score each application. In addition, panel members can offer comments based on the knowledge they have of groups, emerging issues in the sector or localities as well as things they have picked out from the application which can be brought to the meeting for discussion.
2. The Panel will consider the initial scores and comments during the grants panel meeting and agree and make recommendation for the final award to be consider by cabinet.

Community Facilities Grants

3. Charnwood Community Facilities Grant supports the renovation, improvement and new provision of community buildings and external enhancement of adjacent outside space.
4. The grants applications should;
 - Provide well prepared schemes, with a realistic costing of the work and timetable for completion and any planning or other permissions required
 - Provide a minimum of 2 quotes for the works of the project
 - Demonstrate consultation and evidence of need and have good local support and strong input from volunteers.
 - Demonstrate links to the Council's Corporate Plan
 - Demonstrates the organisation has a strong local base, wider local benefits and full accessibility to the community.
5. The criteria include the following:
 - That the maximum amount awarded would be £20,000 and will only fund the elements of the project that meet the criteria set out
 - Match funding of 50% is required to secure the grant
 - Inclusion of sports clubs and sports organisations who are open to wider community access
6. The panel will consider the initial scores and comments during the grants panel meeting and agree and make recommendation for the final award to be consider by cabinet.

Community Facilities Grant Applications

Anstey Church Rooms: Modernising toilet facilities

7. St Mary's Parochial Church Council is responsible for the maintenance of its assets. Church Rooms Renovation Committee has been set up with the aim

of managing the renovation of Church Rooms to a modern, efficient standard so that they can continue to be available for the use and social wellbeing of the community.

8. The application is for internal works to modernise the toilet facilities to ensure increased community engagement and use of the venue.
9. The project will achieve the following outcomes:
 - Clean and modern facilities
 - Local venue offering wider accessible community use
 - Continued offer of a wide range of activities to a diverse community to support health & wellbeing
10. Panel comments:
 - The panel recognises the importance of accessible, hygienic facilities that provide the expected standards for a community venue.
11. £15,700 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £10,000 towards the toilet facilities room upgrade.

Wanlip Church and Community Centre: Venue Refurbishment

12. The purpose of the Community Centre is for the shared use by the Birstall and Wanlip C of E Churches and the Wanlip village community. The Centre is used by the local and wider community.
13. The application is for the refurbishment of the wall and ceilings. This will reduce the heating costs of the Centre and provide an improved service for users and will make the Centre more sustainable in the long-term. The improvements will create a space that more local people will want to use, and therefore increase the number of local people taking advantage of the activities delivered.
14. The facility project will deliver the following outcomes:
 - Clean and updated facility
 - Improve insulation and reduce energy costs
 - Attract more room hire bookings and attendance at activities
15. Panel comments:
 - The panel recognises the importance maintaining community venues to a good standard, ensuring the facility can generate income from room hire and support regular community activities
16. £7,591 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £7,591 towards the internal improvements.

Glenmore Centre: Venue Refurbishment

17. The Shepshed Glenmore Community Association is committed to improve the quality of life in Shepshed and the surrounding district and to promoting the use of the Glenmore Centre
18. The application is for the replacement of a suspended ceiling in the community centre
19. The project will deliver the following outcomes:
 - Improved facilities
 - Continued offer of a wide range of activities to a diverse community to support the community's health & wellbeing
20. Panel Comments
 - The panel recognises the importance of this venue to the local community and the need to ensure it is well maintained and able to host the many community activities and ensure continued room hire
21. £7,500 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £7,500 towards the internal improvements

Wymeswold Memorial Hall: Addition of a solar storage battery

22. The hall was built in 1924 for the inhabitants of Wymeswold and the wider neighbourhood, for the use for meetings, events and classes, and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the community
23. The application is for the installation of a solar storage battery to store the surplus energy generated from the buildings solar panels to ensure continued supply of electricity
24. The facility project will deliver the following outcomes:
 - Reduce running costs as the additional electricity will help reduce winter fuel payments
 - Will provide power if there is a local power cut
 - Positive demonstration of using green energy
25. Panel Comments
 - The panel were encouraged about this application and the strong and positive links to the Councils environmental and climate aims.
26. £4,500 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £4,500 towards the installation of the storage battery

Falcon Support Services: Installation of a new boiler water cylinder and flooring

27. Falcon Support Services is a homeless accommodation provider, providing safe and supported housing for people experiencing homelessness. We also provide Community services to reduce social isolation and improve health and wellbeing alongside our recovery work we provide interventions and support to individuals on their recovery journey
28. The application is for the replacement and installation of a new water cylinder and the damaged flooring
29. The facility project will deliver the following outcomes
- Ensure continued provision of services
 - Provide a new and updated water cylinder
30. Panel comments:
- The panel recognises the importance of the services that are offered to some of the borough's more vulnerable residents and the need to ensure that they have updated facilities that can support this work
31. £5,561 was requested. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £4,000 towards the installation of the new water cylinder.

Newtown Linford Cricket Club: Improving clubhouse access and changing rooms

32. The cricket club has a wide membership and promotes cricket at all levels within the community providing opportunities for playing, coaching and social activities. They have seen an increase in female players and juniors
33. The application is for improving club house external access and creating a female/child friendly changing room.
34. The facility project will deliver the following outcomes
- Improved updates to clubhouse accessibility
 - New changing rooms suitable for families and female members
35. Panel comments:
- The panel recognises the need to ensure the club house meets the needs of its members. The panel felt that the most important priority is the improvements to exterior of the club house to ensure all members have accessibility. This compliments the previous funding for accessible pathways to the local Tennis club which is based on the same site

36. £12,456 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £3,500 towards improving the access to the club house. They also recommend the club contact the England Cricket Board for further support

Loughborough Greenfields Tennis Club: Essential improvement works to the tennis courts

37. This is a small community tennis club part of Loughborough Greenfields Sports and Social Club (also providing bowls, cricket, function room and bar facilities). The club's main aim is to provide sport and recreational services for the local community

38. The application is for the essential maintenance and upgrade improvements to the club's tennis courts

39. The facility project will deliver the following outcomes

- Improved facility
- Opportunities to increase engagement with local school and community members to 'Get into Tennis'
- Attract new members

40. Panel Comments

- The panel recognises the importance of grass roots tennis and the plans for the club to attract new players from the wider community

41. £4,680 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £3,436 towards the upgrade of the tennis courts. They have also recommended the club contact the LTA for further support and possible event hosting

Charnwood Community Grant Applications

Charnwood Eco Hub: Community workshop including tool library and scrapstore

42. Charnwood Eco Hub Eco Hub CIC is committed to fostering a sustainable lifestyle within the local community by providing various resources and activities that promote eco-friendly practices

43. The application is towards setting up a community workshop including tool library, scrapstore and makerspace.

44. Panel comments

- The panel recognises the project will support and encourage a sustainable local community providing a wide range of resources and activities to promote eco-friendly practices

- The project supports the Council's environmental and climate aims.

45. £4,500 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £4,500 towards setting up the community workshop

Open Heaven Church: Opening of Loughborough Community Grocery Social Supermarket

46. Open Heaven Church is committed to support local people to relieve financial hardship and promote good health

47. The application is towards the opening of Community Grocer social supermarket in the Storer area of Loughborough

48. Panel Comments

- The panel recognises the importance of social supermarkets and the opportunity for residents to have food choices at affordable prices. They also acknowledged that the project linked in with the Charnwood Food Poverty Network and supporting the impact of the cost of living crisis

49. £3,200 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £3,200 towards setting up the Community Grocery store

Burton on the Wolds Village Hall: Replacement of furniture

50. Burton on the Wolds Memorial Village Hall provides space for community groups, local residents and the village playgroup

51. The application is for the replacement of furniture including tables and chairs

52. Panel comments

- The panel recognises that this is the only community provision in the village and that replacing the old furniture will improve the facility for users and help to attract other bookings

53. £3,000 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £3,000 towards new update furniture

Equality Action: Loughborough Mela

54. The Mela Committee, who are hosted by Equality Action, are a partnership of individuals, statutory, voluntary and community groups who plan the event for months leading up to the actual date. There is a paid coordinator who books the performers, stalls etc.

55. The application is towards the running costs of the Mela event

56. Panel Comments

- The panel recognises that the event brings people together in Loughborough to enjoy a vibrant free event where they can sample foods from different cultures, enjoy dances and performances

57. £5,000 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £3,000 towards the running of the 2025 Mela

Age UK: Men & Women in Sheds project

58. The Men and Women in Sheds project supported through Age UK Leicestershire, supports men and women over 50 years of age who are seeking to remain active, reduce social isolation and loneliness, through developing and sharing their skills

59. The application is towards running costs of the project

60. Panel comments

- The panel recognises that the project continues to generate income towards the running costs with the beneficiaries attending and selling the things they produce at local fairs and markets. It also contributes to the Council's environmental and climate aims

61. £5,000 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £2,500 towards the running costs

Without Walls: Singing Cafes

62. Without Walls Singing Cafes are a longstanding project that provides mental health, loneliness and isolation support to residents. Singing is an enjoyable activity that helps to improve wellbeing

63. The application is for running costs for the project

64. Panel Comments

- The panel recognises that singing together is proven to help people and has widespread benefits for Charnwood residents whatever their situation

65. £5,000 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £2,000 toward volunteer costs for the singing cafes in Charnwood

United Reform Church Loughborough: Warm Welcome sessions

66. The United Reform Church offer a weekly Warm Welcome Space where people of all cultures, backgrounds, faiths and walks of life within the local community can meet, socialise and get warm food and a range of activities

67. The application is towards running costs for the weekly Warm Welcome project

68. Panel Comments

- The panel recognises that the project provides a place for families and individuals to come together to socialise in a safe and friendly environment, accessing a warm meal and other activities. It particularly meets the impact of the cost of living pressures.

69. £4,620 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £2,000 toward the projects running costs

Countryside Enterprises: Garden seating and tools

70. Countryside Enterprises supports adults with learning disabilities on their personal development, providing opportunities to be involved in small, community enterprises where they can gain practical work skills, engage with the community and improve confidence with the aim of getting into work

71. The application is towards a gardening project including appropriate seating and tools that meet the needs of the beneficiaries. The project produces fruit and vegetables and flowers that are part of their produce enterprise

72. Panel Comments

- The panel were pleased to see this application from a new group that is supporting adults with learning difficulties to work. The produce and cut flower enterprises provide home-grown, low-cost fruit and veg that help generate income for the project

73. £4,000 was applied for. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £1462 to the purchase of garden furniture

Parish of St James the Great: Warm Space Sessions

74. The Welcome (Well-being) Space at St James Birstall is a warm comfortable venue providing light refreshments and social interaction in the heart of the village. It is open two afternoons each week throughout the year.

75. The application is toward running energy heating costs of the Warm Space sessions

76. Panel Comments

- The panel recognises the benefits of warm spaces for people to go to and is pleased to see this one in Birstall offering a warm venue with refreshments and social interaction. It particularly meets the impact of the cost-of-living pressures.

77. The application is for £1,300. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £1,300 toward the energy costs

Artspace Loughborough: Sculpture Trail and Workshops

78. The project is centered around a sculpture trail at Beacon Hill and 4 community outreach projects. The projects are creative and work with natural materials and provide people who would not normally have the chance to work with professional artists

79. The application is towards project costs for both the sculpture trail and 4 workshops

80. Panel Comments

- The panel recognised the opportunity for people to access art-based projects but felt that the Sculpture trail was something for a much wider audience and didn't fully meet the criteria for the grant. They felt that the workshops were a good opportunity for local engagement.

81. The application was for £5,000. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £1,200 toward the workshop at Loughborough Wellbeing Café.

Shepshed Town Bowls Club: Accessibility steps for bowls green

82. The Club manages the bowling green, clubhouse and ancillary facilities for playing bowls and has a membership of over 200 benefiting from keeping active and the opportunity to socialise

83. The application is for 2 safety steps that are stable and slip resistant to improve access to the bowling green for members.

84. Panel Comments

- The panel recognise the need to ensure the clubs facilities meet the needs of their members and that they are able to safely access the green and continue to keep active

85. The application is for £2316. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £1158 toward one set of steps

The Fix It Group 23: Repair Café running costs

86. Repair café service is run in Mountsorrel and Cropston and currently has 26 volunteers involved in offering a wide range of repair skills.

87. The application is for funding towards running costs including stationery and advertising banners plus consumable items used in repairs and secure storage containers

88. Panel Comments

- The panel recognise the many benefits that this project brings, helping repair items instead of people having to buy new, and giving other items a new lease of life. They also acknowledge the strong links it has to the councils environmental, climate and recycling aims

89. The application was for £1100. The panel would like to recommend a full award of £1100 toward the costs.

Inspire Young People & Families Association: Young people engagement project

90. The organisation provides a safe environment for young people aged 16+ many who have been referred and are struggling with socialising and anxiety. The specific project is to provide support to siblings of SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) to give them respite support and time for themselves

91. The application is for providing specific support for the identified siblings including activities

92. Panel Comments

- The panel recognises the aim of the project and the opportunity to support the siblings but felt that there was not enough evidence about how the service would work and what benefit the different activities/trips would bring. The panel have suggested that the money awarded is used to provide some specific case studies that could help with future applications

93. The application is for £2,500. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £1,000 toward a pilot project to demonstrate the benefits of the project

Anstey Local History Group: Signage for village heritage trails

94. The aims of the society are to encourage an interest in history, by providing research material, to stimulate recollections from villagers, to visit sites of

historical note and to invite speakers to meetings for members and guests' edification and enjoyment.

95. The application is for a series of 10 village trails to each have a trail board with its own QR code, linked to a web page providing the history of the area and a main board to detail all the trails. The aim is to encourage residents and visitors to learn about the village history

96. Panel Comments

- The panel thought this was a positive community project that helps the village to retain its local history and encourages people to get active

97. The application is for £5,000. The panel would like to recommend a partial award of £1,000 to the project

APPENDIX 1

Opening Budget 2024/25 - £40,527

Round 3 2024/25 - Community Facilities Grants Summary

Approval up to £40,527

Balance remaining after Round Three: £0.00

Applicant	Project description	Amount applied for (£)	Total project cost (£)	Recommendation
Anstey Church Rooms	To renovate and modernise the old toilets in St Mary's Church Rooms	15,700.00	31,700.00	Approve up to £10,000.00
Wanlip Church & Community Centre	The refurbishment of the wall and ceilings	7,591.00	15,180.00	Approve up to £7,591.00
Glenmore Centre	Replace suspended ceiling	7,500.00	19,596.00	Approve up to £7,500.00
Wymeswold Memorial Hall	Addition of a solar storage battery to store surplus energy generated by our existing solar panel	4,500.00	9,000.00	Approve up to £4,500.00
Falcon Support Services	The costs for the water cylinder and flooring	5,561.00	11,122.00	Approve up to £4,000.00
Newtown Linford Cricket Club	Improving club house access and creating a female/child friendly changing room	12,456.00	24,912.00	Approve up to £3,500.00
Loughborough Greenfields Tennis Club	Essential improvement works to the courts	4,680.00	9,360.00	Approve up to £3,436.00

APPENDIX 2**Opening Budget 2024/25 - £28,420****Round 1 2024/25 - Community Grants Summary****Approval up to £28,420****Balance remaining after Round 3: £0.00**

Applicant	Project /funding request description	Amount applied for (£)	Total project cost (£)	Recommendation
Charnwood Eco Hub	Startup costs for Community Workshop and tool library	4,500.00	4,500.00	Approve up to £4,500.00
Open Heaven Church	Loughborough Community Grocery social supermarket	3,200.00	15,600.00	Approve up to £3,200.00
Burton on the Wolds Village Hall	Replace old furniture	3,000.00	3,000.00	Approve up to £3,000.00
Equality Action	Contribution to Loughborough Mela event 2025	5,000.00	9,385.00	Approve up to £3,000.00
Age UK Men & Women in Sheds	To support running costs, salaries, rent & equipment	5,000.00	53,245.00	Approve up to £2,500.00
Without Walls	Towards Volunteer costs for Singing Cafe	5,000.00	20,556.00	Approve up to £2,000.00
United Reform Church Loughborough	Contribution to costs for Warm Welcome project	4,620.00	4,620.00	Approve up to £2,000.00
Countryside Enterprises	Garden project including seating and tools	4,000.00	4,000.00	Approve up to £1,462.00

Parish of St James the Great	Contribution to energy costs for Warm Space sessions	1,300.00	1,300.00	Approve up to £1,300.00
Artspace Loughborough	Sculpture trail and targeted workshops	5,000.00	2,8210.00	Approve up to £1,200.00
Shepshed Town Bowls Club	Bowls Green access steps	2,316.00	2,316.00	Approve up to £1,158.00
The Fix It Group 23	Contribution to resources for Repair Cafe	1,100.00	1,100.00	Approve up to £1,100.00
Inspire Young People & Families Assoc	Young People engagement project	2,500.00	2,500.00	Approve up to £1,000.00
Anstey Local History Group	Signage for village trails	5,000.00	18,832.00	Approve up to £1,000.00

Charnwood Borough Council

**Equality Impact Assessment
'Knowing the needs of your customers and employees'**

■ **Background**

An Equality Impact Assessment is an improvement tool. It will assist you in ensuring that you have thought about the needs and impacts of your service/policy/function in relation to the protected characteristics. It enables a systematic approach to identifying and recording gaps and actions.

■ **Legislation- Equality Duty**

As a local authority that provides services to the public, Charnwood Borough Council has a legal responsibility to ensure that we can demonstrate having paid due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance Equality of Opportunity
- Foster good relations

For the following protected characteristics:

1. Age
2. Disability
3. Gender reassignment
4. Marriage and civil partnership
5. Pregnancy and maternity
6. Race
7. Religion and belief
8. Sex (Gender)
9. Sexual orientation

What is prohibited?

1. Direct Discrimination
2. Indirect Discrimination
3. Harassment
4. Victimisation
5. Discrimination by association
6. Discrimination by perception
7. Pregnancy and maternity discrimination
8. Discrimination arising from disability
9. Failing to make reasonable adjustments

■ **Step 1 – Introductory information**

Title of the policy	Community Grant and Community Facilities Grant.
Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Peter Oliver and Verity Graham
Date EIA started	June 2024
Date EIA completed	June 2024

■ **Step 2 – Overview of policy/function being assessed:**

Outline: What is the purpose of this policy? (Specify aims and objectives)
<p>Charnwood Borough Council recognises the value and contribution of individuals, voluntary sector organisations and other community-led projects and the benefits they provide to the residents of Charnwood.</p> <p>Through our Charnwood grant schemes we provide a range of grants to help these organisations, groups and individuals access the funding support they need.</p> <p>Cabinet considers applications for funding for the Community Facilities Capital Grants twice a year and the Charnwood Community grants scheme three times a year.</p> <p>It is the Council’s aim to ensure the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p>
What specific group/s is the policy designed to affect/impact and what is the intended change or outcome for them?
<p>It is the Council’s aim to ensure that the grants process is inclusive of all community groups and funding supports projects targeting individuals/ residents across a range of protected characteristics, as outlined in the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>Analysis is therefore undertaken to ensure that the grants are distributed in a reasonable and proportionate manner.</p>
Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?

Evaluation takes place on successful applications to analyse whether there any gaps with regards to the protected characteristics in order to ensure the grants process is fair and equal to all. In particular analysis is undertaken to determine any barriers which may prevent specific community groups/ communities of interest from successfully applying or even applying at all to Charnwood Grants. The VCS Development officers also undertake consultation with a range of VCS organisations.

■ Step 3 – What we already know and where there are gaps

List any existing information/data do you have/monitor about different diverse groups in relation to this policy? Such as in relation to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation etc.

Data/information such as:

- Consultation
- Previous Equality Impact Assessments
- Demographic information
- Anecdotal and other evidence

Analysis of previous Community Development & Engagement Grants, Loughborough Grants, Member Grants, VCS Covid-19 Recovery grants and Community Facilities Grants over the past few years

What does this information / data tell you about diverse groups? If you do not hold or have access to any data/information on diverse groups, what do you need to begin collating / monitoring? (Please list)

The analysis of grants data shows that a wide range of groups access the available funding and have supported a diverse range and have covered the protected characteristics of age, disability, Race, sex/gender, and sexual orientation.

The data in the main shows that the groups / organisations supported have no specific protected characteristic identified and are available for the wider community to access.

It is acknowledged that some of the approved grants are towards projects which support individuals with multiple characteristics and those projects supporting the wider community have a wide range of beneficiaries.

■ **Step 4 – Do we need to seek the views of others? If so, who?**

In light of the answers, you have given in Step 2, do you need to consult with specific groups to identify needs / issues? If not, please explain why.

Further equalities monitoring may be required for those projects which have applied and are deemed unsuccessful in order to identify any further issues or potential barriers.

However, at this stage of analysis it is felt the information currently held is sufficient to analysis trends and determine any barriers or negative impacts.

■ **Step 5 – Assessing the impact**

In light of any data/consultation/information and your own knowledge and awareness, please identify whether the policy has a positive or negative impact on the individuals or community groups (including what barriers these individuals or groups may face) who identify with any 'protected characteristics' and provide an explanation for your decision (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

	Comments
Age	There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to Age. Of the grants awarded, there is a reasonable proportionate spread between projects for older and younger people. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Age.
Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)	There is a reasonable proportion of grant funding awarded to projects relating to disability. In addition, it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. Therefore, creating further positive impacts for people with disabilities. The process has therefore created a positive impact overall in relation to the protected characteristic of Disability.
Gender Reassignment (Transgender)	No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Gender Reassignment. The impact of this is neutral as there have been no applications to date. However, it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place where specific support groups etc. meet for further awareness raising.

Race	There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Race. In addition it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics.
Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)	<p>Whilst Charnwood Grants do not specifically support religious groups / activities, it does provide funding to these groups who are delivering activities for the wider community.</p> <p>The impact is therefore neutral with regards to the protected characteristic of religion or belief with the acknowledged that wider benefits are created for the wider community.</p>
Sex (Gender)	There is no specific grant funding awarded to projects relating to Gender. In addition, however, it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. The process has therefore created a positive impact in relation to the protected characteristic of Gender.
Sexual Orientation	No projects have been specifically funded to support the protected characteristic of Sexual Orientation. The impact of this is neutral as there have been no applications to date. However, it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place where specific support groups etc. meet for further awareness raising.
Other protected groups (Pregnancy & maternity, marriage & civil partnership)	There has been some grant funding awarded to projects relating to these other protected groups, therefore the impact is positive. In addition, it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross - cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics. Additional targeted promotional work will be undertaken.
Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)	The grants which focus on the wider community have a wide range of benefits, particularly for residents from priority neighbourhoods or areas of deprivation and hard to reach sectors of the community.

Where there are potential barriers, negative impacts identified and/ or barriers or impacts are unknown, please outline how you propose to minimise all negative impact or discrimination.

Please note:

- a) If you have identified adverse impact or discrimination that is illegal, you are required to take action to remedy this immediately.
- b) Additionally, if you have identified adverse impact that is justifiable or legitimate, you will need to consider what actions can be taken to mitigate its effect on those groups of people.

No negative impacts or potential barriers have been identified. However, it is acknowledged that specific marketing / promotion of Charnwood Grants could take place for the protected characteristics of Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity and Sexual Orientation.

Summarise your findings and give an overview as to whether the policy will meet Charnwood Borough Council's responsibilities in relation to equality and diversity (please refer to the general duties on the front page).

It is the opinion that the Charnwood Community grants scheme and the Community Facilities Grant scheme comply with Charnwood Borough Council's equality and diversity responsibilities. It will further promote equal opportunities and achieve positive outcomes.

■ **Step 6- Monitoring, evaluation and review**

Are there processes in place to review the findings of this Assessment and make appropriate changes? In particular, how will you monitor potential barriers and any positive/ negative impact?

Monitoring will continue on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are successful. Continuous monitoring and analysis will aim to identify gaps which may potentially highlight barriers or negative impacts towards specific community groups/ communities of interest.

Further equalities monitoring will be explored for those projects which have applied and are deemed unsuccessful, for the further identification of issues or potential barriers.

How will the recommendations of this assessment be built into wider planning and review processes?

e.g. policy reviews, annual plans and use of performance management systems.

Where barriers/ negative impacts are identified, the mitigating action and progress against this will be included within the relevant service plan.

■ **Step 7- Action Plan**

Please include any identified concerns/actions/issues in this action plan:

The issues identified should inform your Service Plan and, if appropriate, your Consultation Plan

Reference Number	Action	Responsible Officer	Target Date
001	Continue to monitor the Grants on a quarterly and annual basis to assess the grant applications that are both successful and unsuccessful.	Verity Graham	March 2025

Step 8- Who needs to know about the outcomes of this assessment and how will they be informed?

	Who needs to know (Please tick)	How they will be informed (we have a legal duty to publish EIA's)
Employees	✓	This EIA will be published on the Council's website.
Service users	✓	
Partners and stakeholders	✓	
Others	✓	
To ensure ease of access, what other communication needs/concerns are there?	✓	

Please delete as appropriate

I agree with this assessment / action plan

If *disagree*, state action/s required, reasons and details of who is to carry them out with timescales: N/A

Signed (Service Head): Peter Oliver

Date: 20/12/2024

Please send completed & signed assessment to Vicky Brackenbury for publishing.