

**CABINET – 13TH APRIL 2017**

**Report of the Head of Neighbourhood Services  
Lead Member: Councillor Jonathan Morgan**

**Part A**

ITEM CHARNWOOD GRANTS – ROUND ONE – 2017/18  
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENGAGEMENT GRANT APPLICATIONS

Purpose of Report

To enable the Cabinet to consider applications received for funding in round one of the Community Facilities and Community Development and Engagement Grants schemes for 2017/18.

Recommendations

1. That the following Community Facilities Grants be awarded:
  - £3,600 to East Goscote Village Hall Management Committee (the balance required to fund the scheme if costs are at lowest), or up to a maximum of £10,000 if they can demonstrate that the additional works are needed, for the replacement of the Village Hall roof.
2. That the following Community Development and Engagement Grants be awarded:
  - £150 to BOSCAPS towards the cost of a summer playscheme;
  - £6,000 to Age UK (Leics & Rutland) towards the cost of the Men in Sheds project (£2,000 of this to be funded through Loughborough Community grants fund as agreed by Loughborough Grants Panel);
  - £5,000 to The Exaireo Trust towards the cost of a furniture recycling project (to be funded through the Community Development and Engagement – Environmental grants allocation, funded by Serco);
  - £500 to Wymeswold Playgroup towards the cost of a garden project;
  - £3,000 to Albert Street Artists for general running costs;
  - £4,000 to Bangladesh Social Association for general running costs (£2,000 of this to be funded through Loughborough Community grants fund as agreed by Loughborough Grants Panel).
3. That the following Community Facilities Feasibility Study grant application be deferred to Round 2 of the grants scheme:
  - Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA) - £2,750 requested – for further Feasibility Study funding for a community building at Fishpool Way, Barrow upon Soar

4. That the following Community Development and Engagement Grant applications be declined:
  - Hannah Frost - £50 requested – applied for funding towards a girlguide trip to Switzerland
  - Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) - £3,300 requested – applied for funding towards suicide awareness and prevention training
  - Revitalise - £1,770 requested – applied for funding towards respite holidays for disabled people from Charnwood
5. That the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to finalise the terms and conditions of the awarded Community Facilities and Community Development and Engagement Grants.

### Reasons

1. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Facilities Grants scheme in terms of community and organisational need.
2. To provide financial support to organisations which meet the criteria of the Community Development and Engagement Grants scheme in terms of community and organisational need and to use funding provided through Loughborough Special Expenses to support schemes in Loughborough.
3. To enable further work to be undertaken with the applicant to see whether the application can be improved and strengthened.
4. To decline to provide financial support to organisations which do not meet the criteria for the award of a grant under the Community Development and Engagement Grants scheme.
5. To enable the grants awarded to be finalised and appropriate information to be supplied to the Council about the outcomes of the projects.

### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

The Council's Corporate Plan 2012-16 made a commitment to provide services that develop communities and neighbourhoods so that everyone feels safe and secure, to create opportunities for communities to live healthy, active and fulfilling lives and to provide funding to support our voluntary community sector partners and associated community projects.

The Community Grants criteria were revised to reflect the Corporate Plan 2012-16 and were approved by Cabinet on 12th April 2012. Cabinet subsequently agreed, on 16th January 2014, that the Community Development and Community Engagement Grant Schemes be combined from 2014/15.

The Council's new Corporate Plan 2016-2020 was approved by Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. A review of the existing grants criteria has been undertaken and it was concluded that the existing criteria were still

appropriate and aligned with the priorities of the new Corporate Plan 2016-2020.

### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The Community Development and Engagement Grants considered in this report will be released, providing they are approved, once the applicants have met any required payment 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.

The Community Facilities Grants will usually be released after the works have been completed and inspected. However, 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 remaining budget for Community Facilities Grants after Round 3 in 2016/17 was £109,802. This report recommends that one application is supported, totalling a minimum of £3,600 and a maximum of £10,000 if the additional works are required, which leaves a balance of £106,202, or £99,802 for future rounds of Community Facilities Grants.

#### *Community Development & Engagement Grant Funding*

The budget for Community Development and Engagement Grants is £61,700.

This Round 1 report recommends that 6 applications are supported totalling £18,650, with £2,000 of this for the Bangladesh Social Association and £2,000 for Age UK Men in Sheds, both Loughborough based projects, being funded from the Loughborough Community Grants budget, and £5,000 for the Exaireo Trust, being funded from the Community Development and Engagement Environmental Project budget, which is externally funded by Serco. This will leave a balance of £52,050 for Community Development Grants to be allocated in future rounds.

#### *Loughborough Community Grant Funding*

Cabinet at its meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 (min 93) approved the recommendation that the Head of Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to allocate any grant budget for schemes in Loughborough that is funded through the Loughborough Special Expenses between the Loughborough Community Grants fund (maximum £2000) and a budget within the Community Development and Engagement Grants fund (maximum £10,000) ring-fenced for schemes based in Loughborough. This was to enable the budget for funding schemes in Loughborough to be more

flexibly allocated between large and small applications. The intention as outlined above is to allocate £2,000 from the Loughborough Community Grants budget to the Loughborough based Bangladesh Social Association, and £2,000 to the Age UK Men in Sheds project which is also based in Loughborough as agreed by Loughborough Grants Panel.

*Community Development and Engagement - Environmental Grant Funding (External funding provided by Serco)*

Serco have agreed to provide £20,000 per year to Charnwood Borough Council (CBC) for grants to projects that deliver environmental outcomes. They have made a commitment to provide this funding for the next three financial years (2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20).

Having reviewed the existing Charnwood Grants criteria it was felt that these grants should be administered using the Council’s existing Community Development and Engagement (CDE) Grants Scheme as the eligibility / assessment criteria and decision making process for these grants is well-established, robust and proven. The criteria for the Council’s CDE and Loughborough grants schemes include two environmental related criteria; the other assessment criteria underpin the success of any funded project, including those with an environmental theme.

The budget for the CDE Environmental grants will be £20,000 in 2017/18, 2018/19 and 2019/20 to enable consideration against this funding stream, and this amount will be ring-fenced for environmental projects.

The ring-fenced budget for environmental projects in 2017/18 is £20,000. This report allocates £5,000 of this to The Exaireo Trust, leaving a balance of £15,000 to be allocated in future rounds of Community Development and Engagement Environmental grants.

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	Risk Management Actions Planned
Grants do not deliver the objectives of the Grants scheme	Unlikely	Moderate	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

The grants criteria specifically cover crime and disorder with projects needing to outline how the proposed project reduces the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour and promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.

## Sustainability

Many of the grants criteria are concerned with sustainability.

Key Decision: Yes

Background Papers: None

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## Part B

### Charnwood Community Grants Criteria

1. At its meeting on 12th April 2012, Cabinet agreed the revised Community Grants Criteria to reflect the changes in the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Council's new Corporate Plan 2016-2020 was approved by Council on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. A review of the existing grants criteria has been undertaken and it was concluded that the existing criteria was still appropriate and aligned with the priorities of the new Corporate Plan 2016-2020.

### Community Facilities Grants

2. The criteria include the following:
  - That the maximum amount awarded would be £20,000 (was previously £30,000) for projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
  - That the scheme would support up to 50% of the cost of feasibility studies, with an upper limit of £5,000.
3. Schemes are scored using an assessment matrix which looks for:
  - Well prepared schemes, with a realistic costing of the work, and projects that are well targeted, have good local support and a strong input from volunteers.
  - Projects that link well into the Council's Corporate Plan and can achieve wider community benefits.
  - Applications from organisations with a strong local base and full accessibility to the community.
  - The need of the community for the facility and the need of the organisation for the funding.
4. The assessment matrix produces a maximum score of 100. A scheme scoring below 30 on the matrix is recommended for refusal and the Grants Panel will provide feedback to the community organisation on the reasons why it was not successful. Where a scheme scores between 30 and 40 on the first assessment the Grants Panel will work with the community organisation to see whether the bid can be improved and strengthened. Schemes scoring 40 and above are normally recommended for approval. However applicants seeking a large grant which scores only just over 40 are advised that they may only receive part of the money they have applied for.

### Community Development and Engagement Grants

5. The criteria include the following:

- Maximum amount to be awarded is £10,000 .
  - Provides funding for projects delivered by the voluntary and community sector
  - Must be available for the wider community
6. All applications are assessed against two measures of need: how the project meets the Council's aims and objectives in meeting identified community needs and the organisational need of grant funding from the Council to enable the project to succeed. Both measures seek to demonstrate the value for money to be obtained in providing grant funding. Twelve criteria are used to assess community need based on the aims and objectives set out in the Corporate Plan.
- How does your project promote stronger, cohesive and balanced communities (in particular encouraging people from different backgrounds to get along together)?
  - How does your project involve volunteers and how will volunteers be supported and developed?
  - How does your project promote and support physical health and well-being (in particular healthy eating, physical activity, sexual health and reduced substance misuse)?
  - How does your project promote and support improved mental health and emotional well-being?
  - How does your project reduce the impact of crime and/or anti-social behaviour?
  - How does your project improve the quality of life of people living in priority neighbourhoods?
  - How does your project improve the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs?
  - How does your project enable children, young people and older people to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live?
  - How does your project enable older people to live independent lives?
  - How does your project promote access of local people to green spaces and the countryside?
  - How does your project add value to Charnwood's commitment to reduce the impact of climate change?
  - How does your project help promote local businesses to prosper and develop vibrant towns and villages, and support rural enterprise?
7. Five criteria are used to assess the need for the Council to provide grant funding. Organisations must demonstrate that their projects are prepared and managed well and will be encouraged to explore other funding sources where appropriate.
- Has a realistic total cost and timetable for the project been identified after being researched, for example through obtaining quotes or using reliable information from previous years?
  - Have efforts been made to obtain other funding to enable the project to begin and is the amount sought from the Council necessary to secure match funding or because other sources of funding are not available?

- What balances and reserves are available and has using these to fund the activity been considered?
  - Is the proportion of the cost of the project the Council is being asked to fund justified?
  - No specific geographically based conditions or targets are applied to grant awards but the geographical distribution of grants across the Borough is taken into account.
8. Applications are assessed qualitatively against these criteria and rated high, medium or low. These ratings are converted to a score on the following basis which rewards those applications which rate highly in meeting community need and provide a maximum possible score of 97.

*Table 1 – Conversion of rankings into scores*

Ranking	Community Need Score	Organisation Need Score
HIGH	6	5
MEDIUM	2	3
LOW	1	1
Maximum Score	72	25

Levels for funding

Score	Level of funding
Less than 30	Nil
30 – 40	Some of grant applied grant for
More than 40	Most or all of funding applied for

Community Facilities Grant Applications

9. Two applications for Community Facilities Grant funding have been received and assessed against the grant criteria, and one has been recommended for approval, and one has been recommended for deferral.

**East Goscote Village Hall Management Committee - Score 47.6 - Recommendation to award up to £3,600 (the balance required to fund the scheme if costs are at lowest) or up to a maximum of £10,000 if they can demonstrate that additional work is needed**

10. East Goscote Village Hall is a community building which was built in the 1960's and was gifted to the village. It's use by the community has grown over the years and it is now seen as the heart of East Goscote. The Village Hall Management Committee is a registered charity. The aim of the village hall is to provide a venue for local people to come together, enjoy arts and events, hold meetings, keep fit and learn new skills and activities. It is offered to all residents and neighbouring villages for all forms of learning, recreation and leisure, with the object of improving the conditions of life for everyone, ranging from ages 4 to 80+. The Village Hall is used by various local groups such as Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Zumba, carpet bowls group, Tots Tennis,

a Dog Society, and meetings of the Parish Council. People from other neighbouring villages also use the hall.

11. This application is for funding towards the cost of re-roofing the village hall. A roof survey was carried out in 2013, and found that whilst the roof was currently stable, it was nearing the end of its useful life.
12. Re-roofing the village hall will have the following benefits:
  - The building will be better insulated, and more thermally efficient
  - Will offer more resistance to damp and cold problems
  - Savings on energy bills
  - Will secure the use of the hall for existing and future users, and ensure the village and surrounding areas continue to have a community focus.
13. The application of £16,650 is for 50% of the overall costs of £33,300 (based on the worst case scenario). However, the roof project has been quoted on three options, as until the main roof is removed the contractors will not know how much work/cost will be involved, and if new liners and purlins will be required. £16,650 of matched funding is identified in the application, meaning that if the lower quote of £20,268 is sufficient to replace the roof then a grant of £3,600 would be required to fund the balance.
14. The Panel scored this scheme at 47.6 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,600 be awarded (the balance required to fund the scheme if option 1 of the quotes of £20,268 is sufficient to replace the roof) or up to a maximum of £10,000 if they can demonstrate that the additional work is required.
15. The Panel feel that this is a strong application, and note that this is the only community facility within East Goscote. It also serves several surrounding towns/villages.

**Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA) - Recommendation to defer the application to Round 2 of the grants scheme, pending further discussions with Locality and the progression of a Feasibility Study application for funding to them**

16. Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA) aims to work with local partners, health agencies, and the Parish, Borough and County Councils to develop solutions to local problems; notably social isolation, crime, drugs and alcohol abuse, as well as tackling issues such as poor skills, and the lack of facilities in the area. Consultation with the Barrow upon Soar community is also integral to the organisation, and development work to date has been solely based on local consultation and identified community need.
17. This application is for funding towards the cost of a further feasibility study. BUSCA wishes to develop the picnic site at Fishpool Way, Barrow upon Soar, into a community accessible creative destination in

the village. The site was selected on the basis of an Options Appraisal that considered every available site in the village. The building will operate as a centre for community engagement, including training for local people and as a location for groups, businesses, start-ups, and individuals to run, develop and collaborate on activities.

18. The application of £2,750 is for 42% of the overall costs of £6,500.
19. The Panel felt that this application lacked sufficient detail and invited BUSCA in for a follow on conversation, and currently recommends that the application be deferred to Round 2 of the grants scheme, pending further discussions with Locality, who provide support and funding for community led building projects including feasibility funding and the progression of a Feasibility Study application for funding to them.
20. The Grants Panel awarded BUSCA a grant of £2,500 in August 2015 for a feasibility study for a new community hub in Barrow upon Soar. The Panel feels that the application does not provide sufficient justification for additional consultation, and note that the organisation was registered with Locality in August 2016, but that an application for funding to Locality has not yet been submitted. The Panel are unable to award funding at this stage, until further discussions are made with Locality about progressing an application for funding. The Panel recommend that if the organisation can access funding through Locality, that this is the route they should take.

#### Community Development & Engagement Grant Applications

21. Nine applications were received for funding in Round 1 for 2017/18. The Panel recommend that one of these applications, for The Exaireo Trust, be funded through the Community Development and Engagement – Environmental grants scheme, and applications from Bangladesh Social Association and Age UK to be partially funded through the Loughborough Community Grants scheme. Nine applications have been assessed against the criteria; six have been recommended for support, and three have been recommended for refusal.

#### **BOSCAPS - Score 33 - Recommendation to award up to £150**

22. The application is for funding to provide equipment for a summer play scheme in Barrow upon Soar for children aged 5 to 12 years, and to offer concessions for parents or carers in receipt of benefits.
23. The benefits of the project include:
  - Increasing children's physical and mental health and wellbeing.
  - Enhancing the knowledge, skills and personal development of the group's volunteers.
  - Supporting families to access extra help and opportunities for children to interact with the wider community.

24. The application is for funding towards the cost of equipment and to assist in concessions being offered for those families in receipt of Tax Credit.
25. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
  - Promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.
  - Involves, supports and develops volunteers.
  - Promotes and supports physical health and wellbeing.
  - Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being.
26. The application of £300 is for 2.5% of the total scheme costs of £12,020.
27. The Panel scored this scheme at 33 and recommends that a grant of up to £150 be awarded.
28. Whilst the Panel recognise the good work of the organisation, they note that this organisation has been awarded funding annually through the Community Development and Engagement grant scheme for several years. The Panel felt that some of the costs seemed high and recommended a small contribution, recognising the benefit it provides to the local community.

**Age UK (Leics & Rutland) - Score 67 - Recommendation to award up to £6,000 (£2,000 of this to be funded through Loughborough Community grants)**

29. Age UK (Leics & Rutland) opened their Charnwood Men in Sheds facility in May 2015. It provides hands-on activities for men over the age of 65 years in a clearly defined space, and has established a robust membership of 64 men. The Shed opens 3 days per week, between 9.00am and 1.00pm, and with demand for places growing, they are planning to expand and open on additional days. The project targets socially isolated older men who are at risk of experiencing poor health due to loneliness, and works closely with Leicestershire County Council's Community Inclusion team. Referrals to the project come from a variety of sources, including GP's, Community Mental Health teams, Social Inclusion Group, and family members and friends who have seen publicity promoting the facility.
30. Activities include woodworking and pottery, and a community garden project is planned for later on this year. This has been in response to the desire by the men to learn new skills as a group and help with future sustainability. The community garden will be promoted to the wider community, including local evergreen clubs, scout groups, Age UK's wellbeing groups and day-care services, and they will initiate an after-school programme for children to visit the garden on a regular basis. This will give an opportunity for inter-generational learning, and will further promote community interaction.

31. Work has been initiated by the members, which as well as utilising their wide range of skills, has helped support the long-term sustainability of the project by producing or renovating items to be sold/re-sold. This includes:
- Production of a range of children's toys and games
  - Renovation of a chicken coop to support the Forever Savvy Charity, which manages a healthy outdoor learning programme for adults with learning difficulties.
  - For a small fee, fixing domestic items for the community including tumble dryers and vacuum cleaners
  - Restoration of donated furniture items to be re-sold via Age UK Charity shops.
  - Pottery workshops initiated by the men, in which they aim to produce further items for sale and offer the pottery facilities for use by the wider community.
32. The benefits of the project include:
- Tackles the issues of loneliness experienced by older men and increases their engagement levels with peers.
  - The participants use existing skills, and also learn new skills, adding to their sense of purpose and achievement.
  - Involvement in a productive activity, whilst enjoying the benefits of working in a social group.
  - Extension of the participants' socialising, away from the Shed.
  - Improves the physical and emotional well-being of its members through greater levels of social interaction, which helps prevent depression, anxiety and the feeling of isolation.
33. The application is for funding towards the rental cost of the premises, the Shed Co-ordinator and equipment used for the Shed project in year 3 of the project.
34. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
- Promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities.
  - Supports and develops volunteers effectively
  - Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being
  - Improves the wellbeing of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs
  - Enables older people to make a positive contribution to the communities in which they live
  - Enables older people to live independent lives
35. The application of £10,000 is for 21.7% of the total scheme costs of £45,950.

36. The Panel scored this scheme at 67 and recommends that a grant of up to £6,000 be awarded, with £2,000 of this to be funded through Loughborough Community grants scheme.
37. This is a very strong application, and the Panel fully supports the Men in Sheds project, which has had some excellent outcomes and achievements. The application has scored highly against the criteria of the scheme, however, the Panel feel that the amount awarded should reflect what has been awarded to the project over the last two years. They note that £7,500 has been awarded for the past two years, and have therefore reduced this year's total grant amount to £6,000. The Panel feel that the organisation should be moving towards becoming more self-sustaining, and that they are now in a position to generate additional income.

**The Exaireo Trust – Score 34.3 - Recommendation to award up to £5,000 (to be funded through Community Development and Engagement – Environmental grants, funded by Serco)**

38. The Exaireo Trust helps people who have been homeless to rehabilitate themselves, by providing accommodation in shared housing. There is a support structure in place including a key worker, to help people overcome addictions, deal with other agencies, and to return to work or education. The aim is to help as many residents as possible to move into their own accommodation and live independently, whilst recognising that for some, a level of support will always be needed.
39. The application is for funding towards the cost of the organisation's Furniture Project, which offers work experience to those residents who are struggling to get back into work. Residents are able to expand their skills by learning how to restore furniture, and deal with the general public. The furniture is either sold face to face, or via e-bay, Facebook or Gumtree, or it is donated to local people in need for free or at a low cost.
40. The benefits of the project include:
  - Increase in residents' skills and knowledge, by providing valuable work experience
  - Increase in residents' confidence and self-esteem
  - People in the local community who are in need, such as those in priority neighbourhoods, have access to low-cost or free furniture.
  - The project is hoping to be able to PAT test electrical items, which will then enable them to donate items such as fridges, to people in need
  - Up-cycling and restoring furniture reduces the amount of waste sent to landfill. Office furniture from a local authority, and some IT equipment from a local business has been re-used, which would have otherwise gone to landfill.

- Residents are being encouraged to re-use and recycle rather than throw things away.
41. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
    - Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being
    - Adds value to Charnwood's commitment to reduce the impact of climate change
  42. The application of £9,898 is for 30% of the total scheme costs of £32,748.
  43. The Panel scored this scheme at 34.3 and recommends that a grant of up to £5,000 be awarded through the Community Development and Engagement Environmental grants fund.
  44. The Panel feel that this is a good project, with strong outcomes for both the residents participating in the work experience, and the people benefitting from the low-cost furniture. They also believe that this project fits very well with the aims of the Environmental grants fund, as there are strong links with reducing landfill waste and re-using and recycling, and therefore recommend that this application is funded through the Community Development and Engagement Environmental grants fund.

**Wymeswold Playgroup - Score 30.3 - Recommendation to award up to £500 towards the cost of the garden project**

45. Wymeswold Playgroup, a a non-profit making charity, runs each weekday morning during term-time and provides pre-school childcare for 20-30 children aged 2 to school age. The playgroup operates from the local village hall, which is a multi-user facility. They aim to provide affordable care to families in Wymeswold and surrounding villages. It offers a safe, stimulating, happy and caring environment where each individual child can learn through play and socialising; developing their physical, cognitive, language and emotional skills.
46. The application is for funding towards the cost of the development of their outdoor play area, including the purchase of a new shed/storage unit, bikes, scooters, a raised vegetable planter, gardening equipment and sunshade. The provision of gardening equipment and planters would create a welcoming and functional area for the playgroup to teach children about gardening and how it connects to the food that they eat, and would engage children in how this relates to a healthy lifestyle. The project aims to involve parents and grandparents, members of the local allotments and the wider community, to share in their knowledge and expertise. The children will then be able to contribute to their community by sharing the flowers and food they have grown.

47. The benefits of the project include:
- Encourages health and well-being from an early age
  - Gives children an understanding about growing food, healthy eating, and nature
  - A raised vegetable planter will enable a larger area for the children to plant, and will enable better access for children with disabilities
  - The garden area will be available for other users of the village hall to enjoy when the playgroup are not there
  - Encourages community cohesion, involvement with members of the local allotments, and parents/grandparents of the children
48. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
- Promotes stronger, cohesive and balanced communities
  - Promotes well supported volunteering opportunities
  - Promotes and supports physical health and well-being
49. The application of £1,826 is for 95% of the total scheme costs of £1,926.
50. The Panel scored this scheme at 30.3 and recommends that a grant of up to £500 be awarded towards the cost of the garden project, including the raised vegetable planters and gardening equipment.
51. The Panel are unable to provide funding for the play equipment, but recommend a contribution towards the cost of the garden project, which they feel has some wider community benefit, with the involvement of the children's families, local allotment members, and the garden being available for other users of the village hall to enjoy.

**Albert Street Artists - Score 43.3 - Recommendation to award up to £3,000 subject to applicant continuing to work closely with the Voluntary and Community Sector Development Officer to source alternative funding, with a view to improving sustainability**

52. This application is for funding towards ongoing running costs, such as rent, utilities, insurance, telephone and internet.
53. Albert Street Artists are a community group that provides support to individuals who have mental health problems. Membership of the group is by referral from Social Care Services (Adults and Communities), and there is a wide age-range of members and a broad social mix. Many members are on low incomes and have little opportunity to participate in social activities; this is compounded by their mental health issues. The studio provides a safe environment away from what can be fearful or anxious situations, providing a safe and relaxing space.

54. The benefits of the project include improving social bonding, confidence building, participation and conversation. The work of the group encourages a sense of identity, both individually and collectively.
55. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:
  - Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being
  - Improves the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs
56. The application of £6,013 is for 55.5% of the total scheme costs of £10,823.
57. The Panel scored this scheme at 43.3 and recommends that a grant of up to £3,000 be awarded, subject to the applicant continuing to work with our Voluntary & Community Sector Development Officer to source alternative funding, with a view to improving sustainability.
58. The application scored highly against the criteria of the scheme. The Panel recognise the value of this organisation, and have recently helped them to secure a grant of £1,873 from the LLR Community Foundation towards running costs. The Panel would like to continue to offer the applicant the opportunity to work with the Council to find alternative funding, and encourage the group to be less reliant on Charnwood Grants funding.

**Bangladesh Social Association - Score 43.5 - Recommendation to award up to £4,000 (£2,000 to be funded through Community Development and Engagement grants fund, and £2,000 to be funded through Loughborough Community grants fund)**

59. The application is for funding towards running costs for an advice and information and community centre, including rent, utilities, maintenance, insurance and projects.
60. The organisation was initially set up more than 40 years ago to support people of Bangladeshi origin but they are now advising an increasing number of people from Eastern European, Sri Lankan and Pakistani backgrounds. The BSA believes that this is a much needed service which caters for the wider community and, in particular, users that would normally have difficulty accessing services due to social, cultural and language barriers.
61. Over the last 12 months the organisation has made significant improvements and in turn has generated income through room hire, projects and increased centre usage. They have been able to build up reserves, and are now in a better position to move the organisation forward.
62. In addition to continuing to deliver information and advice sessions, elderly tea clubs, a summer playscheme and Bangla school, the

organisation has developed new activities and projects at the Centre. These include:

- Conversational English adult learning sessions
- Driving theory test classes for women who do not speak English
- Sewing classes
- 'Access to Digital' sessions for women
- Yoga for men
- Swimming sessions in partnership with Charnwood Borough Council and Human Rights and Equalities Charnwood
- Subsidised trips
- Pitha Mela – community social event

63. The benefits of the project include:

- Provision of advice and support to the community
- Delivery of events aimed at reducing isolation, and promoting community cohesion
- Improvement of mental health and emotional well-being
- Partnership working with Human Rights and Equalities Charnwood, Anand Mangal, Shree Ram Krishna Community Project and the Loughborough Well-being Café, ensuring consistent and effective delivery of services

64. The application identifies strong links with the following aims and objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan:

- Improves the quality of life of people living in priority neighbourhoods
- Promotes and supports improved mental health and emotional well-being
- Improves the well-being of residents through acknowledging their diverse needs.

65. The application of £5,500 is for 44% of the total scheme costs of £12,500.

66. The Panel scored this scheme at 43.5 and recommends that a grant of up to £4,000 be awarded. (£2,000 of this is to be funded through the Loughborough Community Grants fund).

67. The application scored highly against the criteria of the scheme. The Panel recognise and value the role that the BSA have in supporting their local community and providing wider community sessions. The Panel also note that the organisation has been working in partnership with other organisations and following advice given by Officers, and has been successful in making significant improvements over the last 12 months. For this reason they would like to support the organisation with funding for a further 12 months, and continue to work with them in developing their Business Plan further.

**Hannah Frost – Individual Grant – Girlguide trip to Switzerland – Not scored - Recommendation to decline**

68. This application is for funding towards the cost of a girlguide trip to Switzerland in the summer of 2017, for Hannah Frost, a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> East Goscote Girlguides. Hannah will be organising various fundraising activities to help cover the cost of the trip.
69. Hannah participated in a similar trip to Canada in August 2015 and was awarded £50 by the Charnwood Grants Panel.
70. The application of £50 is for 4% of the total cost of £1,200.
71. The Panel did not score this application, due to it not meeting the criteria of the grants scheme, and recommends that the application be declined.
72. The criteria of the grants scheme states that grants to individuals will be considered in exceptional circumstances where an individual who is resident in the Borough has been selected to participate in an activity supported by a recognised national organisation. The Panel felt that there is no community activity involved in the trip. The Panel have also taken into consideration that Hannah has previously been awarded funding in 2015, and are therefore making the recommendation to decline the application.

**Rural Community Council (Leicestershire and Rutland) – Score 21.5 - Recommendation to decline, and applicant be invited to re-submit application**

73. This application is for funding towards the delivering of suicide awareness training, which will be open to all and free to attend in the Charnwood area. The Rural Community Council will deliver three half-day suicide awareness training events for delegates from across the Borough. The training will enable community-based delegates to understand what makes individuals vulnerable and how to help, reducing stress and potentially preventing suicide.
74. Funding is sought towards the salary costs of a Project Manager, publicity, venue hire, catering, associate trainers, training materials and delegate packs.
75. The application of £3,300 is for 100% of the costs.
76. The Panel scored this scheme at 21.5 and recommend that the application be declined.
77. The application does not sufficiently meet the criteria of the scheme. The Panel feel that the staff costs and training events costs are very high, and that venue costs could be reduced or eliminated if held at a venue such as Charnwood Borough Council. The Panel believe that

some organisations, such as Councils and larger organisations, should be paying for the training, and that only certain organisations/charities should be subsidised, such as those similar to Minnie's Friends, and Living Without Abuse.

78. The Panel would like to invite the applicant to re-submit an application in Round 2 of Community Development and Engagement grants, taking the above points into consideration, and in consultation with CBC Officers.

#### **Revitalise – Score: 17.8 - Recommendation to decline**

79. Revitalise is a national provider of residential respite breaks, which provide essential physical and nursing facilities as well as a programme of daytime and evening entertainment and excursions.
80. The application is for funding towards the provision of five essential respite breaks for disabled guests from Charnwood and their carers.
81. The application of £1,770 is for 19.5% of the total scheme costs of £9,065.
82. The Panel scored this scheme at 17.8 and recommends that the application be declined.
83. The Panel feel that the project is worthwhile, however it does not sufficiently meet the criteria of the scheme, and it only benefits a small number of people.

#### Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Community Facilities Grants Summary
- Appendix 2 – Community Development and Engagement Grants Summary
- Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment

**APPENDIX 1**

**Round 1, 2017/18 - Community Facilities Grants Summary**

**Budget - £109,802**

**Balance Remaining - £106,202**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>Total project cost (£)</b>	<b>Total score</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Grant Ref: 1067 East Goscote Village Hall	Roof replacement for Village Hall	16,650	33,300	47.6	Approve up to £3,600 (the balance required to fund the scheme if costs are at lowest) or up to a maximum of £10,000 if they can demonstrate that the additional roof works are needed
Grant Ref: 1074 Barrow upon Soar Community Association (BUSCA)	Feasibility Study for a community building at Fishpool Way, Barrow upon Soar	2,750	6,500	Not scored	Defer the application to Round 2 of the grants scheme, pending further discussions with Locality and the progression of a Feasibility Study application for funding to them

**APPENDIX 2**

**Round 1, 2017/18 - Community Development and Engagement Grants Summary**

**Budget for 2017-18: £61,700  
Balance Remaining: £52,050**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>Total project cost (£)</b>	<b>Community need score</b>	<b>Organisation need score</b>	<b>Total score</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Grant Ref: 1076 BOSCAPS	Summer playscheme for children aged 5 to 12 years	300	12,020	18.5	14.5	33	Approve up to £150
Grant Ref: 1077 Age UK (Leics & Rutland)	Men in Sheds	10,000	45,950	52.5	14.5	67	Approve up to £6,000 (£2,000 of this to be funded through Loughborough Community grants)
Grant Ref: 1078 The Exaireo Trust	Furniture Project	9,898	32,748	18.5	15.8	34.3	Approve up to £5,000 (to be funded through Community Development and Engagement – Environmental grants, funded by Serco).

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>Total project cost (£)</b>	<b>Community need score</b>	<b>Organisation need score</b>	<b>Total score</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Grant Ref: 1080 Wymeswold Playgroup	Development of outdoor play area	1,826	1,926	19.3	11	30.3	Approve up to £500 towards the cost of the garden project, including the raised vegetable planters and gardening equipment.
Grant Ref: 1081 Albert Street Artists	Running costs	6,013	10,823	28.3	15	43.3	Approve up to £3,000 – subject to applicant continuing to work closely with CBC Officers to source alternative funding, with a view to improving sustainability
Grant Ref: 1083 Bangladesh Social Association	Running costs	5,500	12,500	27.5	16	43.5	Approve up to £4,000 (£2,000 to be funded through Community Development and Engagement grants fund, and £2,000 to be funded through the Loughborough Community grants fund)

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project description</b>	<b>Amount applied for (£)</b>	<b>Total project cost (£)</b>	<b>Community need score</b>	<b>Organisation need score</b>	<b>Total score</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Grant Ref: 1075 Hannah Frost	Individual – Girl-guide trip to Switzerland	50	1,200	Not scored	Not scored	Not scored	Decline – there is no community activity involved in the trip, and funding has previously been awarded for Hannah in 2015.
Grant Ref: 1079 Rural Community Council (Leics & Rutland)	Suicide awareness and prevention training	3,300	3,300	11.5	10	21.5	Decline – invite applicant to re-submit an application
Grant Ref: 1082 Revitalise	Respite holidays for disabled people from Charnwood	1,770	9,065	11	6.8	17.8	Decline – does not meet the criteria of the grants scheme

**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 Development & Engagement Grant and Community Facilities Grant.
Name of lead officer and others undertaking this assessment	Julie Robinson
Date EIA started	March 2017
Date EIA completed	March 2017

■ **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>Three times a year Cabinet consider applications for revenue funding for the Community Facilities Capital Grants and Community Development and Engagement Grants Schemes.</p> <p>It is the Councils 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 Councils 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 grant are distributed in a reasonable and proportionate manner.</p>
Which groups have been consulted as part of the creation or review of the policy?
<p>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.</p>

■ **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 successful Community Development & Engagement Grants and Community Facilities Grants 2016/17

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)

Number & total of grants awarded based on protected characteristic:

	<b>Number of grants awarded</b>	<b>Total funding approved</b>
<b>Age</b>	6	£12,200
<b>Disability</b>	3	£8,500
<b>Gender Reassignment</b>	0	£0
<b>Pregnancy &amp; Maternity</b>	1	£10,000
<b>Race</b>	2	£19,100
<b>Religion or Belief</b>	N/A	N/A
<b>Sex/ Gender</b>	1	£7,500
<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	0	£0
<b>No Characteristic/ Wider Community</b>	8	£70,734
<b>TOTAL</b>	21	£128,034

N.B. The characteristic of Marriage and Civil Partnership was not included due its status within the Equality Act 2010 legislation.

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).

	<b>Comments</b>
<b>Age</b>	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.
<b>Disability (Physical, visual, hearing, learning disabilities, mental health)</b>	There is some 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.
<b>Gender Reassignment (Transgender)</b>	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.
<b>Race</b>	There is a reasonably large amount of grant funding awarded to projects relating to Race. In additional it is acknowledged that some of the projects funded are cross- cutting and support individuals with multiple characteristics.
<b>Religion or Belief (Includes no belief)</b>	Whilst Charnwood Grants do not specifically support religious groups/ activities, it does provide funding to faith groups who are delivering activities for the wider community.  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.
<b>Sex (Gender)</b>	There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Gender. In addition 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.

<b>Sexual Orientation</b>	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.
<b>Other protected groups (Pregnancy &amp; maternity, marriage &amp; civil partnership)</b>	There is some grant funding awarded to projects relating to Pregnancy & Maternity. In addition 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 Pregnancy & Maternity.
<b>Other socially excluded groups (carers, low literacy, priority neighbourhoods, health inequalities, rural isolation, asylum seeker and refugee communities etc.)</b>	The grants which focus on the wider community have a wide range of benefits, particularly for residents from priority neighbourhoods or areas of deprivation.

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 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 Community Development & Engagement Grant and the Community Facilities Grant 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.	J. Robinson	March 2018

■ **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?	✓	

■ **Step 9- Conclusion (to be completed and signed by the [Julie Robinson](#))**

<b>Please delete as appropriate</b>
I agree with this assessment / action plan
If <i>disagree</i> , state action/s required, reasons and details of who is to carry them out with timescales: N?A
Signed (Service Head): Julie Robinson
Date: 28.03.2017

[Please send completed & signed assessment to Suzanne Kinder for publishing.](#)