

Argyll and Bute Council: Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Section 1: About the proposal

Title of Proposal

Re-alignment of grants to Council priorities

Intended outcome of proposal

Amalgamation and realignment of the following to support delivery of the Council's priorities allowing local organisations and communities to submit applications for the combined grant pot.

- Strategic Events and Festivals (£90,000)
- Community Grants (£103,950)
- Education – Early Years Third Sector Grants and Services (£105,420)

This involves use of the Council's Priorities Fund to maintain the budget in 2024/25, and then reduce the combined budget in years 2 and 3 by one third and two thirds respectively.

This Equalities Impact Assessment is based on the 'Community Grants'

Description of proposal

The Community Grants fund totals £103,950 and comprises:

£90,000 for the 'Supporting Communities Fund'. An annual fund with £22,500 per administrative area allocated to a wide range of community groups and organisations (including parent councils) on the basis of an application evidencing criteria agreed at Policy and Resources and related to needs as per evidence from community consultations.

£13,950 for the support to Gaelic festivals as part of an SLA with Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

A review of the current, separate, grant application processes will be undertaken to provide a single point of entry for customers, making it easier to submit online applications for the grant funding.

A reduction in the grant funding currently used to support the running costs of a number of third sector groups may result in these non-statutory groups/organisations closing or ending certain activities.

Business Outcome(s) / Corporate Outcome(s) to which the proposal contributes

Amalgamation of the grants provides an increased level of flexibility for communities in terms of the type of project that can be applied for, and contributes to delivery of the Council's priorities.

Lead officer details:

Name of lead officer	Community Grants – Rona Gold
Job title	Communities and Partnership Manager
Department	Chief Executives Unit
Appropriate officer details:	
Name of appropriate officer	Suzanne Mason
Job title	Communities and Engagement Lead
Department	Chief Executives Unit
Sign off of EqSEIA	
Date of sign off	

Who will deliver the proposal?

Section 2: Evidence used in the course of carrying out EqSEIA

Consultation / engagement
There has been no engagement with community groups. The manager of the Community Grants Fund has been consulted.

Data
Information from the Supporting Communities Fund has been used this includes: Previous grant recipients – type of organisation, type of project, outcomes delivered by project, beneficiaries of project.

Other information

Gaps in evidence
We do not currently collect data from organisations on how many people benefit from their projects in terms of the protected characteristics outlined below and so cannot say whether there would be a potential impact. This would be information that community organisations may know.

Section 3: Impact of proposal

Impact on service users:

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Protected characteristics:				
Age				X
Disability	X			
Ethnicity	X			
Sex				X
Gender reassignment				X
Marriage and Civil Partnership				X

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Pregnancy and Maternity				X
Religion	X			
Sexual Orientation				X
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population	X			
Island populations	X			
Low income				X
Low wealth				X
Material deprivation				X
Area deprivation				X
Socio-economic background				X
Communities of place	X			
Communities of interest	X			

If you have identified any impacts on service users, explain what these will be.

A reduction in the number of groups receiving funding has an impact on both those group members and their organisation or projects customers. We have data that shows this may impact negatively on those within the categories above, which is based on previous organisations and projects funded.

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

Where we do not know the impact this is because we do not currently collect data from organisations on these factors and so cannot say whether there would be a potential impact.

Impact on service deliverers (including employees, volunteers etc):

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Protected characteristics:				
Age				X
Disability				X
Ethnicity				X
Sex				X
Gender reassignment				X
Marriage and Civil Partnership				X
Pregnancy and Maternity				X
Religion				X
Sexual Orientation				X
Fairer Scotland Duty:				
Mainland rural population	X			
Island populations	X			
Low income				X
Low wealth				X
Material deprivation				X
Area deprivation	X			
Socio-economic background				X

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Communities of place	X			
Communities of interest	X			

If you have identified any impacts on service deliverers, explain what these will be.

The Supporting Communities Fund has provided funding which enables volunteers to run projects. This has an impact of increasing volunteers. To reduce this would mean a negative impact.

The fund has also funded the employment of people to undertake projects.

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

We do not have information on the protected characteristics (age, gender etc) of volunteers of community organisations.

How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?

By amalgamating the community grant funds with the other funds and also by reducing the total amount to be applied for (e.g. from the current level of £2,500 maximum to half of this) then there may be an opportunity to limit the number of groups impacted. However, it would be likely that projects would not be as impactful. Other sources of funding to bring into the fund, from external providers such as the National Lottery could be considered but at this point cannot be guaranteed as a supplementary source of funds.

Section 4: Interdependencies

Is this proposal likely to have any knock-on effects for any other activities carried out by or on behalf of the council?

Yes

Details of knock-on effects identified

Work on webpage to have an online form.

Demands on ICT and Legal to both create the forms and ensure due process of submission of sensitive financial information (i.e. bank statements) and requirements of ICT to have a suitable, functioning webpage to meet needs of applicants.

Section 5: Monitoring and review

How will you monitor and evaluate the equality impacts of your proposal?

This will need close liaison with community groups to identify who is benefitting from their projects based on the equality factors and protected characteristics and who would be impacted