

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment v3 - optional ECIA review

Reference: ECIA544902544

Submitted: 12 September 2023 14:11 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Local Community Fund: Approval of Funding Proposals

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

Overview of policy / decision: The Local Community Fund is in the process of receiving proposals from Essex County Councillors. As proposals are received, they are put forward to the Deputy Leader via a CMA. This ECIA is intended to accompany all CMAs which seek to approve Local Community Funding.

In May 2023, the Council established a £300,000 fund called the Local Community Fund. The Council also established criteria for making proposals to the fund. Money must be spent on one of the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

Throughout the funding year, Councillors make proposals to the fund on behalf of their colleagues who represent the same district. These proposals are then considered by officers in the relevant service, and, once approved by these officers, the recipients are asked to provide additional information about the proposal. These details are then checked for eligibility and the proposals are listed on a CMA for approval by the Deputy Leader. This will be done through several CMAs throughout the year.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: All proposals are aimed at assisting communities and groups within the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

When completing the proposal form, Councillors must elaborate on how the funding will assist communities and groups. Specifics of each proposal can be found within each CMA.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Nicole Wood (Corporate Services')

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Cllr Louise McKinlay (Deputy Leader, Levelling Up, and the Economy)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: New policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: All proposals will be considered on a case by case basis for their suitability for the fund.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: High Quality Environment, A good place for Children and Families to Grow

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment: Net zero, Green communities, Levelling up the environment

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Families: Levelling up outcomes for families

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: Yes

What steps you have taken to meet the digital accessibility: Both the proposal form (which is completed by Councillors) and the information form (which is completed by proposed recipients) have been designed using MS Forms and all measures have been taken to ensure that the flow of the form is logical, accessible and as succinct as possible.

How have you tested accessibility?: The forms have been tested with a panel of ECC employees and continue to be amended in response to suggestions from Councillors and applicants.

How will you monitor and maintain accessibility once it has gone live?: The forms will be amended in response to user feedback as required.

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: None

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: None

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: As proposals to the Local Community Form are received on an ongoing basis, it is not yet clear who exactly the projects will benefit. All projects must benefit one of the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: No negative impacts are anticipated.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Working families

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Harlow

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Harwich

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Canvey Island

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Residents of Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: As proposals to the Local Community Form are received on an ongoing basis, it is not yet clear where exactly the projects will benefit. All projects must benefit one of the following three areas:

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Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

People who experience drug and alcohol dependence

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Victims of modern slavery

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children / care leavers

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

The armed forces community (serving personnel and their families, veterans, reservists and cadets)

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: None

People on low income

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Sex workers

Nature of impact: None

Ethnic minorities

Nature of impact: None

Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller communities

Nature of impact: None

People with multiple complex needs or multi-morbidities

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: As proposals to the Local Community Form are received on an ongoing basis, it is not yet clear who exactly the projects will benefit. All projects must benefit one of the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: No negative impacts are anticipated from the funding.

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

People living in urban areas

Nature of impact: Too early for impact to be known

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: As proposals to the Local Community Form are received on an ongoing basis, it is not yet clear who exactly the projects will benefit. All projects must benefit one of the following three areas:

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Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: None

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: None

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: As proposals to the Local Community Form are received on an ongoing basis, it is not yet clear who exactly the projects will benefit. All projects must benefit one of the following three areas:

- Levelling Up
- Tackling Climate Change
- Youth Services

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?: No negative impacts are anticipated as a result of the funding.

Crime & Disorder

Crime and disorder

Nature of impact: None

The misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances

Nature of impact: None

Re-offending

Nature of impact: None

Serious violence

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact:

It is not anticipated that any of the funding proposals will have an impact upon crime and disorder.

(If negative impact assessed) What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales:

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts?:

No negative impacts are anticipated as a result of the funding.

How could you strengthen any positive impact(s)?:

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve development or re-development of buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy take place in, or make use of, existing buildings or infrastructure?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to transport, travel or vehicles? This includes travel needs / requirements of both service users and staff (including staff you're planning to recruit): No

Are you undertaking a procurement exercise?: No

Does your decision / policy involve the purchase of goods or materials?: No

Will any waste be generated by this decision? This includes waste from construction, waste generated by service users / staff, and waste generated by replacing existing products / materials with new: No

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 06/09/2023

Name of person completing the ECIA: Emma Hunter

Email address of person completing the ECIA: emma.hunter@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Corporate Services

Your service area: Democracy and Transparency

Your team: Democratic Services

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: joanna.boaler@essex.gov.uk