

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment - Head of service review

Reference: ECIA454824052

Submitted: 28 September 2022 15:45 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Approval of Community Challenge Fund (CCF) Applications with Amendments to Eligibility Criteria and Upper Grant Award Limit

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

Overview of policy / decision: Following a decision made in December 2021 the Council established a £500,000 fund called the Community Challenge Fund. The Council has established criteria for making grants under this Fund. The Community Challenge Fund seeks to support new, not for profit schemes, groups, initiatives or ideas. Small scale community projects between the value of £300 - £5,000. The fund is specifically targeted at communities in the identified levelling up areas of Clacton, Harwich, Canvey, Harlow, Rural Braintree and parts of Colchester and Basildon.

The decision set out in the paper sees the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Community, Equality, Partnerships and Performance agreeing to make grants from the Community Challenge Fund (CCF) set out in the appendix to the decision paper.

It also sets the terms that no payments will be made with respect to a particular grant, unless the recipient agrees to the terms and conditions of grant.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: The Community Challenge Fund has been created to provide a straightforward and speedy way for local residents, registered charities, community interest companies and charitable incorporated organisations to access small amounts of money to support their community. Working across the areas that The Council has prioritised in terms of Levelling Up. Grants will support projects that encourage different groups within communities to meet and come together as well as applications that consider those in the community who might be less engaged or on the periphery.

Applications that seek to spread opportunities within the community, share experiences and skills or create places or spaces where people are happy to spend time will also be supported where these meet the eligibility criteria.

-Outcomes that the decision will achieve include:-

-Engaging people in their local community

-Developing lasting and positive change at a community level

-Addressing isolation and loneliness

-Building community capacity, activism and assets

-Creating places individuals and communities are proud to celebrate.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Gavin Jones (Chief Executive)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Louise McKinlay (Deputy Leader and Community, Equality, Partnerships)

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

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: The decision will be applied to the first £100,000 of the Community Challenge Fund spent. At this point the applications will be reviewed and the

nature and geographic spread of applications will inform work undertaken to ensure that the fund is disseminated evenly across the six Levelling Up priority Areas.

Successful applicants are asked to work with The Council to demonstrate the impact of the awards made, to consider how the money has benefitted the community and to develop case studies that can be used to show impact and to encourage the sharing of best practice.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: Yes

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

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

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

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: Basildon, Braintree, Castle Point, Colchester, Harlow, Tendring

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: The application form has been designed using MS Forms and all measures have been taken to ensure the flow of the form is logical, accessible and as succinct as possible.

How have you tested accessibility?: The application form has been tested with a broad panel of ECC employees and continues to be amended in response to suggestions from applicants.

How will you monitor and maintain accessibility once it has gone live?: The application form is amended in response to user feedback on a regular basis.

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Sex

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Race

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The Community Challenge Fund has been established to address the needs of people living in the six Levelling Up communities in a way that acknowledges that the people who live and work in a place are the experts. Placing the control in the hand of residents, registered charities, community interest companies or charitable incorporated organisations means that they can respond to local priorities, conditions and situations that may or may not specifically consider the engagement, inclusion or needs of specific groups. Never the less The Fund has been established to bring communities closer together and, as such, applications are likely to consider groups in the community who are less involved or who might benefit from more inclusive activities.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: This application relates to the specific decision to fund proposals submitted under the Community Challenge Fund. As such there are no existing actions recorded. At the end of the first Phase we will re-draft the ECIA and will include data and commentary on the nature, spread and impact of applications funded in tranche 1.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

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

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Working families

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

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

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Harlow

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Harwich

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Canvey Island

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: This decision will see small grants of between £300 and £5,000 paid out, at pace, to individuals, groups of individuals working together e.g. neighbours or parents, non constituted groups, registered charities, community interest companies (CIC) or charitable incorporated organisations through applications submitted from any of the six Levelling Up areas of focus including; Harlow, Clacton (Tendring) & Vange, Pitsea and Laindon (Basildon), Canvey Island (Castle Point) & Greenstead (Colchester), Harlow & Rural areas of Braintree.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: This application relates to the specific decision to fund proposals submitted under the Community Challenge Fund. As such there are no existing actions recorded. At the end of the first Phase we will re-draft the ECIA and will include data and commentary on the nature, spread and impact of applications funded in tranche 1.

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Carers

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Looked after children

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Veterans

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People on low income

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Working families

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Whilst the Community Challenge Fund and the decision making process set out in this document have been designed to enable local residents, registered charities, community interest companies (CIC) or charitable incorporated organisations to make decisions about what the local community needs, there have been no specific guidelines on particular groups of the community and the funding is not targeted at specific cohorts. As such the impact of the decision on the groups listed will be dependent on the local conditions, as viewed by the applicant and may or may not specifically benefit the listed groups directly.

All applications are expected to demonstrate how they will bring elements of the community together

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: This application relates to the specific decision to fund proposals submitted under the Community Challenge Fund. As such there are no existing actions recorded. At the end of the first Phase we will re-draft the ECIA and will include data and commentary on the nature, spread and impact of applications funded in tranche 1.

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

People living in urban or over-populated areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The decision making process that will be established on the back of this decision will directly benefit the six priority areas for Levelling Up. Including Harlow, Basildon, Tendring, Castle Point, Colchester and Rural areas of Braintree.

The core geographical focus of ECC's levelling-up programme has been determined by working through the following steps:

Step 1: Identifying the most deprived districts in Essex (based on IMD 2019)

Step 2: Identifying the most deprived LSOAs within these districts (Based on IMD 2019)

These core LSOAs provide the geographical focus for the design of any specific policy interventions and will be used as a default geographical unit for analytical purposes. In the interests of effective policy implementation, small-area geographies that either a) contain these LSOAs and neighbouring areas; or b) are contained within these LSOAs, c) adjacent to these areas (or the areas they are contained within), may be used as a focus for the delivery of interventions.

This will be particularly important where there is an need to:

- ensure that geographies are recognisable to, and resonate with, local communities. LSOAs are a statistical construct developed top-down by the ONS and do not reflect residents understanding of their local areas;
- ensure alignment with local democratic structures (e.g. wards).

We have identified rural Braintree as an area that exemplifies the challenges associated with poor connectivity, rural isolation and poor access to services.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: This application relates to the specific decision to fund proposals submitted under the Community Challenge Fund. As such there are no existing actions recorded. At the end of the first Phase we will re-draft the ECIA and will include data and commentary on the nature, spread and impact of applications funded in tranche 1.

Families

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

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

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: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

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

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Whilst the Community Challenge Fund and the decision to approve applications set out in this document do not specifically identify Families as a priority cohort, families are at the heart of community and it is likely that locally developed ideas and plans to support communities, will in turn support families either directly or indirectly.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: This application relates to the specific decision to fund proposals submitted under the Community Challenge Fund. As such there are no existing actions recorded. At the end of the first Phase we will re-draft the ECIA and will include data and commentary on the nature, spread and impact of applications funded in tranche 1.

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?: No

Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?: 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: 28/09/2022

Name of person completing the ECIA: Cara Humphreys

Email address of person completing the ECIA: Cara.Humphreys@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Chief Executives Office

Your service area: Chief Executives Office

Your team: Equalities and Partnerships

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

Email address of Head of Service: Shammi.jalota@essex.gov.uk