

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Communities and Central Services Portfolio Decision Meeting
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	21 September 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Distribution of Equalities Funding
<b>Report by:</b>	Director of Corporate Services
<b>Wards affected:</b>	None
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes/No
<b>Full Council decision:</b>	Yes/No

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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 To report on the proposed distribution of the funding allocated to Equalities initiatives arising from a budget amendment allocating £100,000 of funding.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the budget allocation is distributed as follows:

- Portsmouth Pride annual event - £25,000
- Live Well Community Outreach programme - £10,000
- Youth Voice project - £14,000
- Community research and participation initiatives - £11,000
- Violence Against Women and Girls Toolkit - £5,000
- Community Inclusion Grant Scheme - £30,000
- Unallocated contingency - £5,000

## **3. Background**

- 3.1. At the meeting of the full council in February 2022 an amendment to the value of £100,000 to the revenue budget was carried:

*Equalities and Community Initiatives Grants - Voluntary and Community Sector grants to promote equality and tackle discrimination (e.g. Violence against women and girls, anti-racism and the annual Pride event*

- 3.2 This report sets out the distribution of the funds to specific initiatives already identified and recommendations on a grant scheme for the balance of funding,

specifically aimed at Community and Voluntary Sector initiatives. The report sets out the governance arrangements and operation of the scheme and how grants will be allocated.

#### **4. Equality and Diversity Funding Allocations**

4.1 It is proposed that the funding is distributed as follows:

4.1.1 Portsmouth Pride - £25,000 allocated. Portsmouth Pride is a charitable, volunteer run organisation aiming to make Portsmouth a city of inclusivity. Allocation of grant funding will enable Portsmouth Pride to continue running events throughout the year, and the annual Pride event in June, in celebrating Portsmouth's LGBTQIA+ communities. It should be noted that £5,000 in grant funding has already been awarded to Portsmouth Pride therefore the additional grant of £25,000 brings the total grant award to £30,000 reflecting a £10,000 per year grant award for the next three years. The Leader of the Council is also working with other city institutions to persuade them to match fund the Council's grant with the aim of achieving sustainable funding of the annual Portsmouth Pride event.

4.1.2 Live Well Events - £10,000 allocated. The Live Well events are community outreach events for communities in deprived areas of the city, bringing services to the community directly and from a wide range of services within the council and from partners in the health sector. The funding enables items such as marketing materials (e.g. leaflets, posters and digital advertising), refreshments for residents attending events, raffle prizes (used to incentivise attendance), equipment and venue hire where events are not on council premises. The events themselves provide access to money advice, advice on energy and the range of grants available, health advice on issues such as healthy eating, exercise, mental health, smoking cessation, drugs and alcohol, vaccination to name a few. Several events have been piloted in the city to date and feedback from residents is very positive; this funding will enable these targeted events to continue to support those residents most in need during what is likely to be a challenging winter period.

4.1.3 Youth Voice - £14,000 allocated. To work with young people in developing the Youth Parliament for the city and continue the work focused on young people's mental health and wellbeing, air quality and the environment, diversity and inclusion with a particular focus on anti-racism and LGBTQIA+ and bridging the education gap.

4.1.4 Community research and participation initiatives - £11,000 allocated. Activities will include; commissioning research projects to better understand Portsmouth's diverse communities and their needs. This vital work around data collection and diversity monitoring will make it possible to identify trends and any gaps in representation, enabling evidence-based, targeted engagement activities. Creating assets to raise awareness and engage people in conversations, activities and events relating to equalities diversity and inclusion, both in person and online. Producing engaging

guides to help staff in gaining a good understanding of issues around equalities, diversity and inclusion such as using inclusive language when providing services to residents.

- 4.1.5 Violence Against Women and Girls - £5,000 allocated. Development of a toolkit addressing violence against girls and young women to be deployed primarily in schools but also in other settings applicable to young women such as local employers, colleges, and universities. The toolkit will be a resource to be used by teachers and welfare/wellbeing advisers in education settings and by HR functions and managers in employer settings providing clear and unequivocal guidance and education on preventing violence against women and girls.
- 4.1.6 Community Inclusion Grant Scheme - £30,000 allocated. A Grant Scheme that community and voluntary sector groups are invited to apply for and that will look to support activities which challenge inequality, advance equality and celebrate diversity in Portsmouth.
- 4.1.7 Taking account of the above schemes leaves £5,000 unallocated. It is recommended that this amount is held in reserve as a contingency for any further initiatives that may come to light throughout the remainder of the financial year. It is further recommended that allocation of this remaining budget is delegated to the Director of Corporate Services.
- 4.2 Applications for the Grant Scheme will be subject to a set of criteria and the maximum grant per application is up to £1,000 per group/organisation. Grants will be awarded to projects that assist in:
- Advancing community cohesion and diversity by bringing people together
  - Positive impacts relating to equalities, diversity and inclusion across the city
  - Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion across the city
  - Supporting community and residents with protected characteristics
  - Tackling inequalities

## **5. Integrated Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been carried out. There are no potential negative equality impacts of the recommendations in this report. The Grant Scheme will be reviewed following a successful distribution of funds to evaluate the impacts created by projects funded by this scheme and each grant application will be subject to a scheme specific equality impact assessment as part of the application criteria.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.6. Any grant funding made by the Council must be subject to a written agreement between the Council and the recipients which sets out the terms of the grant and what it is to be used for.

- 6.7. A grant is a gift of funds for a specific purpose. The recipient is not obliged to deliver any goods or services in return although the terms of the grant agreement should set out a mechanism for the Council to clawback funding which has not been spent for the specific purpose or is unused.
- 6.8. The value of the funding available for this grant funding scheme is unlikely to fall foul of the subsidy control (formally state aid) regime as it is likely to be considered de minimis.
- 6.9. The award of grant funding should follow the public law principles of rationality and be based on evidence i.e. the objective criteria established, published and applied to each application for funds. To not do so could risk complaint to the Council by aggrieved applicants and possible judicial review of the decision.

**7. Finance Comments**

- 7.6. A one-off allocation of £100,000 was approved at the annual City Council budget meeting on 15th February 2022 for Equalities and Community Initiatives grants.
- 7.7. This was for Voluntary and Community Sector grants to promote equality and tackle discrimination (e.g. Violence against women and girls, anti-racism and the annual Pride event).
- 7.8. The proposals for spending this budget are set out in the body of the report.
- 7.9. In line with financial rules grants to third parties are awarded in accordance with specified criteria and used as intended.

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Signed by (Director)

**Appendices:**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

## Equalities and Inclusion Grant Scheme

### Introduction

We are looking to work more closely with local communities as well as voluntary and not-for profit organisations. Funding is a big barrier to many groups and organisations in the city achieving their ambitions, even a small amount of funding from the council could make a big difference and unlock funding opportunities that require match funding support.

The Community Inclusion Grant will look to support activities which challenge inequality, advance equality and celebrate diversity in Portsmouth. Grants will assist in:

- Enhancing the EDI agenda across the city;
- Promoting EDI initiatives across the city;
- Supporting community and residents with protected characteristics;
- Advancing community cohesion and diversity;
- Tackling inequalities;

### Grant priorities

For the panel to consider the application it must meet one or more of the following proposed priorities:

- **Challenging inequality:** *projects which aim to eliminate discrimination and advance equality by improving outcomes and access for people to services, information and/or employment. Includes awareness training of equality, diversity and inclusion*
- **Celebrating/encouraging diversity:** *activities which celebrate, encourage or raise awareness of diverse cultures/identities by bringing people together with an aim to build strong and cohesive communities and/or reduce prejudice or hate crimes and incidents.*
- **Support for protected characteristic, minority, disadvantaged groups:** *activities which reduce isolation, build resilience and independence, help people stay safe, help people learn or prosper, or help people stay healthy – particularly where there is an identified equality gap*

### Who can apply?

The grant scheme will be advertised to a diverse network of potential applicants, with an aim of reaching marginalised and seldom targeted groups.

Groups or charities who apply for funding must operate within the boundaries of Portsmouth City Council, providing facilities, activities or services for the benefit of Portsmouth residents. They must have:

- a constitution (or rules)

- a bank account in the name of the organisation with a recent bank statement for evidence
- a policy describing how they will safeguard children, young people or vulnerable adults
- evidence of relevant insurance

Anyone wishing to apply without these in place will be directed to HIVE Portsmouth for support to meet the requirements.

The application form will be accessible online, through the digital customer transformation team. Paper copies will also be made available which can be accessed at libraries across the city.

### **How are grants awarded?**

A range of council officers working with communities across the city, as well as representatives from partners in the voluntary & community sector will be invited to score applications on set criteria; these scores will be used to inform a final decision from the Cabinet member.

The panel will score against the following criteria:

#### **Project Benefits**

The panel will be reviewing the quality of the proposed project, looking for clearly articulated outcomes and defined beneficiaries.

This might include the number and range of beneficiaries, the degree of benefit, the vulnerability of the target group, intersectionality, any deprivation, and/or inequality factors.

#### **Evidence of Need/Demand**

The panel will look for evidence arising from lived experience to highlight the needs of underrepresented groups or individuals with protected characteristics.

#### **Measuring Success**

The recipients of the grant will be provided with an evaluation tool which will allow the recipients to self-evaluate and give assurance that the outcomes have been met.

#### **Funding Priorities**

The panel will be looking for clear evidence of how the project will meet at least one of the three grant priorities: challenging inequality, celebrating, and encouraging diversity and support for protected characteristic, minority, and/or disadvantaged groups.

#### **Organisation**

The panel will be looking for evidence that the organisation/group is properly governed, their accounts, reputation, affiliations, or partner organisations.