

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM

April 2016

THE COUNCIL'S EQUALITIES STATEMENT

This Council recognises that people have different needs, requirements and goals and we will work actively against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relations and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members, job applicants and workforce.

We will also work to create equal access for everyone to our services, irrespective of ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh language, BSL or other languages, nationality, responsibility for any dependents or any other reason which cannot be shown to be justified.

NAME OF NEW OR REVISED PROPOSAL *	MTFP Savings Proposal– Reduction in Community Regeneration Fund.
DIRECTORATE	Communities
SERVICE AREA	Regeneration & Planning – Business Support & Funding Team
CONTACT OFFICER	Antony Bolter Business Support & Funding Manager boltea@caerphilly.gov.uk 01443 866251
DATE FOR NEXT REVIEW OR REVISION	N/A

***Throughout this Equalities Impact Assessment Form, 'proposal' is used to refer to what is being assessed, and therefore includes policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals.**

A greener place
Man gwyrddach

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg, ac mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill ar gais.
This document is available in Welsh, and in other languages and formats on request.



INTRODUCTION

The aim of an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is to ensure that Equalities and Welsh Language issues have been proactively considered throughout the decision making processes governing work undertaken by every service area in the Council as well as work done at a corporate level.

The form should be used if you have identified a need for a full EIA following the screening process covered in the [Equalities Implications in Committee Reports](#) guidance document (available on the [Equalities and Welsh Language Portal](#) on the Council's intranet).

The EIA should highlight any areas of risk and maximise the benefits of proposals in terms of Equalities. It therefore helps to ensure that the Council has considered everyone who might be affected by the proposal.

It also helps the Council to meet its legal responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and supports the wider aims of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. There is also a requirement under Human Rights legislation for Local Authorities to consider Human Rights in developing proposals.

Specifically, Section 147 of the Equality Act 2010 is the provision that requires decision-makers to have 'due regard' to the equality implications of their decisions and Welsh Language Standards 88-97 require specific consideration of Welsh speakers under the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015.

The Older People's Commissioner for Wales has also published 'Good Practice Guidance for Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessments and Scrutinising Changes to Community Services in Wales' to ensure that Local Authorities, and other service providers, carry out thorough and robust impact assessments and scrutiny when changes to community services are proposed, and that every consideration is given to mitigate the impact on older people and propose alternative approaches to service delivery.

The Council's work across Equalities, Welsh Language and Human Rights is covered in more detail through the [Equalities and Welsh Language Objectives and Action Plan 2016-2020](#).

This approach strengthens work to promote Equalities by helping to identify and address any potential discriminatory effects before introducing something new or changing working practices, and reduces the risk of potential legal challenges.

When carrying out an EIA you should consider both the positive and negative consequences of your proposals. If a project is designed for a specific group e.g. disabled people, you also need to think about what potential effects it could have on other areas e.g. young people with a disability, BME people with a disability.

There are a number of supporting guidance documents available on the [Equalities and Welsh Language Portal](#) and the Council's Equalities and Welsh Language team can offer support as the EIA is being developed. Please note that the team does not write EIAs on behalf of service areas, the support offered is in the form of advice, suggestions and in effect, quality control.

Contact equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for assistance.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL

1	<p>What is the proposal intended to achieve? <i>(Please give a brief description of the purpose of the new or updated proposal by way of introduction.)</i></p> <p>The purpose of the Community Regeneration Fund is to foster and enhance viable and sustainable communities within Caerphilly county borough. The Fund enables community and voluntary sector organisations in the county borough to bid for funding to take forward initiatives they have developed for the benefit of the local community or service users. Community Regeneration Fund grants have been part of a funding package that the Third Sector Officers utilise to secure other sources of funding.</p> <p>This savings proposal should be reported to the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee for consideration. The revenue budget is currently £100,057 (2018-19). It is proposed that the budget be reduced to zero in 2019-20 and then reinstated at £50,000 in subsequent years. The proposed 100% reduction in 2019-20 and £50K reduction in subsequent years is considered to be medium public impact.</p>
2	<p>Who are the service users affected by the proposal? <i>(Who will be affected by the delivery of this proposal? e.g. staff members, the public generally, or specific sections of the public i.e. youth groups, carers, road users, people using country parks, people on benefits etc.)</i></p> <p>The Fund is used by voluntary and community groups to deliver community based projects in the county borough that have a social, economic, environmental and/or cultural impact on the area or community concerned. Projects must have one of more of the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• they will enhance employment prospects and skills of local people, particularly the young and those at a disadvantage, and promote equality of opportunity• they will protect and improve the local environment and infrastructure, and bring land and buildings into effective use• they will enhance the quality of life of people through social, cultural and recreational opportunities• they will promote and encourage local people to secure a sustainable future for local communities and/or encourage regeneration. <p>During the past year, the fund has supported organisations such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allotments associations• Churches and religious groups• Rugby clubs• Community centres and partnerships• A wide range of local third sector organisations. <p>Some of these projects have been aimed at specific sections of the public. However, it is not possible to list the sections of the public that are likely to be affected by the proposed budget reduction.</p> <p>In 2017-18, £129K was allocated to 9 applicants via five funding rounds during the year, giving an average award of £14K. The intended revenue budget reduction would reduce the potential outcomes to zero in 2019-20 and to 4 or 5 local projects supported in subsequent years.</p>

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC AND STAFF

<p>3</p>	<p>Does the proposal ensure that everyone has an equal access to all the services available or proposed, or benefits equally from the proposed changes, or does not lose out in greater or more severe ways due to the proposals? <i>(What has been done to examine whether or not these groups have equal access to the service, or whether they need to receive the service in a different way from other people?)</i></p> <p>Future delivery of the Community Regeneration Fund depends on the outcome of a report reviewing the various grants offered by the Council's Regeneration & Planning Division. This will be considered by Cabinet on 16th January 2019. It is anticipated that, as has always been the case, applications will be considered against the Fund criteria and assessed by the Funding Panel.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Ensure that the Community Regeneration Fund is marketed to all eligible applicants.</p> <p>Ensure that all applications are fairly assessed and in line with the Fund criteria.</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>What are the consequences of the above for specific groups? <i>(Has the service delivery been examined to assess if there is any indirect affect on any groups? Could the consequences of the policy or savings proposal differ dependent upon people's disability, race, gender, sexuality, age, language, religion/belief?)</i></p> <p>In 2017-18, £129K was allocated to 9 applicants via five funding rounds during the year, giving an average award of £14K. The intended revenue budget reduction would reduce the potential outcomes to zero in 2019-20 and to 4 or 5 local projects supported in subsequent years.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>N/A</p>

5	<p>In line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. (No.1) Regulations 2015, please note below what effects, if any (whether positive or adverse), the proposal would have on opportunities for persons to use the Welsh language, and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.</p> <p><i>(The specific Policy Making Standards requirements are Standard numbers 88, 89, 90, 91, 92 and 93. The full detail of each Standard is available on the Equalities and Welsh Language Portal)</i></p> <p>All information made available to the public is in line with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards and is produced bi-lingually. All Fund application forms and processes are available bi-lingually.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>N/A</p>

INFORMATION COLLECTION

6	<p>Is full information and analysis of users of the service available?</p> <p><i>(Is this service effectively engaging with all its potential users or is there higher or lower participation of uptake by one or more groups? If so, what has been done to address any difference in take up of the service? Does any savings proposals include an analysis of those affected?)</i></p> <p>Each fund application has particular aims and particular target groups. It is not possible to accurately state whether particular groups are likely to be either adversely or advantageously affected by this proposal.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Ensure that service areas, partners and local organisations are aware of the future availability of the Community Regeneration Fund.</p>

CONSULTATION

7	<p>What consultation has taken place? <i>(What steps have been taken to ensure that people from various groups have been consulted during the development of this proposal? Have the Council's Equalities staff been consulted? Have you referred to the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring Guidance?)</i></p> <p>The Consultation and Monitoring Guidance has been referred to and the proposal should be considered at the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Contact known local organisations to make them aware of the proposal. Consider the views expressed at the Voluntary Sector Liaison Committee.</p>

MONITORING AND REVIEW

8	<p>How will the proposal be monitored? <i>(What monitoring process has been set up to assess the extent that the service is being used by all sections of the community, or that the savings proposals are achieving the intended outcomes with no adverse impact? Are comments or complaints systems set up to record issues by Equalities category to be able analyse responses from particular groups?)</i></p> <p>Monitor the applications received and review the target populations and groups that will benefit from the funding.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>N/A</p>
9	<p>How will the monitoring be evaluated? <i>(What methods will be used to ensure that the needs of all sections of the community are being met?)</i></p> <p>Ensure that projects delivered have a positive effect on all sections of the community and that no one community sector is advantageously supported.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>N/A</p>
10	<p>Have any support / guidance / training requirements been identified? <i>(Has the EIA or consultation process shown a need for awareness raising amongst staff, or identified the need for Equalities or Welsh Language training of some sort?)</i></p> <p>Need to encourage collaborative working and encourage everyone to work to sustainable development principles (I-CLIP – Involvement, Collaboration, Long Term, Integration, Prevention).</p>

	<p>Actions required:</p> <p>Encourage officers and partners to embed I-CLIP into the way they work.</p>
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11	<p>Where you have identified mitigating factors in previous answers that lessen the impact on any particular group in the community, or have identified any elsewhere, please summarise them here.</p> <p>Ensure that projects delivered have a positive effect on all sections of the community and that no one community sector is advantageously supported, by marketing, encouraging and supporting applications for the fund from all groups, organisations and communities in the county borough.</p>
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12	<p>What wider use will you make of this Equality Impact Assessment? <i>(What use will you make of this document i.e. as a consultation response, appendix to approval reports, publicity etc. in addition to the mandatory action shown below?)</i></p> <p>This assessment will underpin monitoring and evaluation of the Community Regeneration Fund to ensure that it reaches all communities in the county borough.</p>
	<p>Actions required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIA, when completed, to be returned to equalities@caerphilly.gov.uk for publishing on the Council's website.

Completed by:	Antony Bolter
Date:	14 th November 2018
Position:	Business Support & Funding Manager
Name of Head of Service:	Rhian Kyte