Cabinet

DOCUMENTS FOR THE MEMBERS ROOM

Tuesday, 18th August, 2020
at 4.30 pm

MEMBERS ROOM DOCUMENTS ATTACHED TO THE
LISTED REPORTS

Contacts

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MEMBERS ROOM DOCUMENTS

11   <u>COMMUNITY CHEST GRANTS 2020/21</u> □ (Pages 1 - 24)

Monday, 10 August 2020   SERVICE DIRECTOR, LEGAL AND BUSINESS
OPERATIONS

Data Protection Impact Assessment

What is a Data Protection Impact Assessment?

A Data Protection Impact Assessment ("DPIA") is a process that assists organisations in identifying and minimising the privacy risks of new projects or policies. Projects of all sizes could impact on personal data.

The DPIA will help to ensure that potential problems are identified at an early stage, when addressing them will often be simpler and less costly.

Conducting a DPIA should benefit the Council by producing better policies and systems, and improving the relationship with individuals.

Why should I carry out a DPIA?

Carrying out an effective DPIA should benefit the people affected by a project and also the organisation carrying out the project.

Not only is it a legal requirement in some cases, it is often the most effective way to demonstrate to the Information Commissioner's Officer how personal data processing complies with data protection legislation.

A project which has been subject to a DPIA should be less privacy intrusive and therefore less likely to affect individuals in a negative way.

A DPIA should improve transparency and make it easier for individuals to understand how and why their information is being used.

When should I carry out a DPIA?

The core principles of DPIA can be applied to any project that involves the use of personal data, or to any other activity that could have an impact on the privacy of individuals.

Answering the screening questions in Step 1 of this document should help you identify the need for a DPIA at an early stage of your project, which can then be built into your project management or other business process.

Who should carry out a DPIA?

Responsibility for conducting a DPIA should be placed at senior manager level. A DPIA has strategic significance and direct responsibility for the DPIA must, therefore, be assumed by a senior manager.

The senior manager should ensure effective management of the privacy impacts arising from the project, and avoid expensive re-work and retro-fitting of features by discovering issues early.

A senior manager can delegate responsibilities for conducting a DPIA to three alternatives:

a) An appointment within the overall project team;
b) Someone who is outside the project; or
c) An external consultant.

Each of these alternatives has its own advantages and disadvantages, and careful consideration should be given on each project as to who would be best-placed for carrying out the DPIA.

How do I carry out a DPIA?

Working through each section of this document will guide you through the DPIA process.

The requirement for a DPIA will be identified by answering the questions in Step 1. If a requirement has been identified, you should complete all the remaining sections in order.

After Step 5, the Information Lawyer (Data Protection Officer) will review the DPIA within 14 days of receipt, and complete the rest of the assessment within 28 days. The DPO will identify any privacy risks, and proposed measures to address them.

These measures must then be agreed by the project lead, Information Asset Owner or Administrator, and, in some cases, the Senior Information Risk Owner.

Advice can be found at the beginning of each section, but if further information or assistance is required, please contact the Information Lawyer (Data Protection Officer) on 023 8083 2676 or at information@southampton.gov.uk.

Data Protection Impact Assessment Template			
Version	3.1	**Approved by**	Data Protection Officer
Date last amended	2nd November 2018	**Approval date**	2nd November 2018
Lead officer	Chris Thornton, Information Lawyer (Data Protection Officer)	**Review date**	2nd November 2019
Contact	information@southampton.gov.uk	**Effective date**	2nd November 2019

Project Details

Name of Project
Community Chest 2020/21 Round 2
Brief Summary of Project
Community Chest is the council's small grant scheme, offering grants of up to £2,500 to community groups and small voluntary groups for the benefit of residents in the city.
Estimated Completion Date
Grants are awarded for one calendar year. On line with the council's retention schedule: • files on successful applicants are kept for 6 years from the end of the grant award period • files on unsuccessful applicants are kept for 2 years from the date of notification of the decision.
Name of Project Lead
Joanne Hughes

Details of Person Conducting DPIA

Name
Joanne Hughes
Position
Assistant Service Development Officer
Contact Email Address
joanne.hughes@southampton.gov.uk

Step 1: Identify the need for a DPIA

Does your project involve… (tick all that apply)

☐ The collection of new information about individuals

☒ Compelling individuals to provide information about themselves

☐ The disclosure of information about individuals to organisations or people who have not previously had routine access to the information

☐ The use of existing information about individuals for a purpose it is not currently used for, or in a way it is not currently used

☐ Contacting individuals in ways which they may find intrusive

☐ Making changes to the way personal information is obtained, recorded, transmitted, deleted, or held

☐ The use of profiling, automated decision-making, or special category data[1] to make significant decisions about people (e.g. their access to a service, opportunity, or benefit).

☐ The processing of special category data[1] or criminal offence data on a large scale.

☐ Systematically monitoring a publicly accessible place on a large scale.

☐ The use of new technologies.

☐ Carrying out profiling on a large scale.

☐ Processing biometric or genetic data.

☐ Combining, comparing, or matching data from multiple sources.

☐ Processing personal data without providing a privacy notice directly to the individual.

☐ Processing personal data in a way which involves tracking individuals' online or offline location or behaviour.

☐ Processing children's personal data for profiling or automated decision-making or for marketing purposes, or offer online services directly to them.

☐ Processing personal data which could result in a risk of physical harm in the event of a security breach.

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[1] personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation

If you answered "yes" to any of these, please proceed to Step 2.
If <u>none</u> of these apply, please tick the below box, and return the form to the Information Lawyer (Data Protection Officer) at information@southampton.gov.uk
☐ None of the screening statements in Step 1 of this document apply to the project, and I have determined that it is not necessary to conduct a Data Protection Impact Assessment

Step 2: Describe the processing

Community Chest 2020/21 Round 1 applications have been processed in line with the procedures set out in the Integrated Commissioning Unit (ICU) Privacy Impact Assessment for grant applications (May 2018).

The nature of the processing
How will you collect data?
How will you use the data?
How will you store the data?
How will you delete the data?
What is the source of the data?
Will you be sharing data with anyone?
INFO: If yes, please provide details

Describe the scope of the processing
What is the nature of the data?
INFO: Detail the type of personal data being processed. List any fields that will be processed (e.g. name, address, data of birth, NHS number, video images)

Does it include special category or criminal offence data? Please provide details.
INFO: "Special category" data includes personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious or philosophical beliefs, or trade union membership, and the processing of genetic data, biometric data for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person, data concerning health or data concerning a natural person's sex life or sexual orientation.
How much data will you be collecting and using?
How often will the data be collected and used?
How long will you keep it?
How many individuals are affected?
What geographical area does it cover?

Describe the context of the processing
What is the nature of your relationship with the individuals?
INFO: Detail who the data subjects will be (e.g. residents, carers, pupils, staff, professionals)
How much control will they have over their data?
Would they reasonably expect the Council to use their data in this way?
INFO: Please provide details to support your answer

Do they include children or other vulnerable groups?
INFO: If yes, please provide details

Are you aware of any prior concerns over this type of processing or security flaws?
INFO: If yes, please provide details

Is the processing novel in any way?
INFO: If yes, please provide details

What is the current state of technology in this area?

Are there any current issues of public concern that should be considered?
INFO: If yes, please provide details

Describe the purposes of the processing
What do you want to achieve?
What is the intended effect on individuals?
What are the benefits of the processing – for the Council, and more broadly?

Step 3: Consultation process

Consider how to consult with relevant stakeholders
Describe when and how you will seek individuals' views – or justify why it's not appropriate to do so

Who else do you need to involve, or have you already involved within the Council?
INFO: e.g. IT services, records management

Do you need to ask your processors to assist?
INFO: Processors are third parties who will process the personal data on our behalf

Do you plan to consult information security experts, or any other experts?
INFO: Please provide details to support your answer

Step 4: Assess necessity and proportionality

Describe compliance and proportionality measures
What is your lawful basis for processing? Please choose <u>one</u> of the following…
INFO: There should generally only be <u>one</u> legal basis for processing.
☐ The data subject has given consent
☐ The processing is necessary for the performance of a contract to which the data subject is party or in order to take steps at the request of the data subject prior to entering into a contract
☐ The processing is necessary for compliance with a legal obligation to which the Council is subject
☐ The processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the Council
☐ The processing is necessary for the purposes of the legitimate interests pursued by the Council or by a third party
Does the processing actually achieve your purpose?
INFO: Please provide details to support your answer
Is there another way to achieve the same outcome?
INFO: Please details to support your answer
How will you prevent function creep?

INFO: Function creep is where data collected for one purpose is used for another purpose over time.

How will you ensure data quality and data minimisation?
INFO: We should only use the minimum amount of personal data possible to achieve the purpose of the processing.

What information will you give individuals about the processing?

How will you help to support their rights?
INFO: Data subject's rights include the right to access, rectify, erase, port, and restrict their data.

What measures do you take to ensure processors comply with the GDPR, and assist the Council in supporting individuals in exercising their rights?
INFO: E.g. will there be a contract in place with the processor that contains data protection obligations?

How do you safeguard any international transfers of personal data?
INFO: If there are no international transfers involved, please state this

Step 5: Send DPIA Form to the Data Protection Officer

After completing this part of the form, please send the document to the Information Lawyer (Data Protection Officer) at information@southampton.gov.uk

The DPO will review the information provided, and identify and assess the privacy risks.

Step 6: Identify and assess risks (DPO to complete)

Describe source of risk and nature of potential impact on individuals. Include associated compliance and corporate risks as necessary.	Likelihood of harm	Severity of harm	Overall risk
1.	Remote Possible Probable	Minimal Significant Severe	Low Medium High
2.	Remote Possible Probable	Minimal Significant Severe	Low Medium High
3.	Remote Possible Probable	Minimal Significant Severe	Low Medium High
4.	Remote Possible Probable	Minimal Significant Severe	Low Medium High
5.	Remote Possible Probable	Minimal Significant Severe	Low Medium High
6.	Remote Possible Probable	Minimal Significant Severe	Low Medium High

Step 7: Identify measures to reduce risk (DPO to complete)

	Identify additional measures you could take to reduce or eliminate risks identified as medium or high risk in step 5		
Risk	**Options to reduce or eliminate risk**	**Effect on risk**	**Residual risk**
1.		Eliminated Reduced Accepted	Low Medium High
2.		Eliminated Reduced Accepted	Low Medium High
3.		Eliminated Reduced Accepted	Low Medium High
4.		Eliminated Reduced Accepted	Low Medium High
5.		Eliminated Reduced Accepted	Low Medium High
6.		Eliminated Reduced Accepted	Low Medium High
Comments from the Data Protection Officer			
Comments from the Senior Records Officer			

Step 8: Sign off

Item	Date	Notes
DPO reviewed DPIA and provided advice on:		DPO should advise on compliance, step 7 measures and whether processing can proceed
Senior Records Officer reviewed DPIA on:		SRO should advise on records management matters
Measures approved by Project Manager on:		Integrate actions back into project plan, with date and responsibility for completion
Comments from Project Manager:		
Residual risks approved by Information Asset Owner / Administrator on:		
Comments from IAO / IAA:		
Residual high risks approved by the Senior Information Risk Owner on:		If accepting any residual high risk, consult the ICO before going ahead
Comments from SIRO:		

Step 9: Review

Item	Date	Comments
DPO reviewed DPIA on:		
Date of next review:		

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SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL

Approach to Voluntary Sector Funding

Equality and Safety
Cumulative Impact Assessment

Original: March 2017

Last Updated: July 2020

Amendments for July 2019:
Page 9, paragraphs 53 and 54, regarding the introduction of the Celebrations Grant.

Amendments for January 2020:
Document reviewed, no amendments needed at this time.

Amendments for July 2020:
Document reviewed, no amendments needed at this time.

Introduction

1. Southampton City Council, in line with its statutory responsibilities, undertakes Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIAs). ESIAs provide a systematic way of assessing the impact of policies, strategies, programmes, projects, services or functions on different equality groups and on poverty and community safety. ESIAs are completed for all proposals identified as requiring them to inform decision making.

2. This document provides an overarching summary of the ESIAs for the proposals for the approach to voluntary sector investment in the future.

3. The proposals were subject to public consultation from 2 December 2016 until 24 February 2017. The feedback received up until 24 February 2017 was collated and will be presented as part of the final report. The feedback has also been incorporated into the individual ESIAs and is reflected in this cumulative impact assessment.

Context

4. In October 2016 Cabinet considered a report detailing a review of the council's investment in the voluntary sector, across grants and contracts. The review was undertaken with the aim of ensuring that any services provided (whether contracted or grant funded) contributed directly to the council's priority outcomes. This review was to inform a two year work programme with a strong focus on prevention and early intervention approaches. Cabinet considered a number of recommendations in order to deliver a redesigned funding programme which could result in reshaping and re-tendering of current grants and contract arrangements.

5. The council wishes to prioritise its support to voluntary sector agencies and to engage the sector in working jointly to address local challenges. However, given the fact that funding is now provided through a variety of means including both grants and contracts it is no longer sensible to view this support as being provided only through a grants allocation process.

6. In October 2016 Cabinet therefore agreed a new approach to funding voluntary sector organisations to support the priority areas of building community capacity, encouraging prevention and early intervention approaches and working with partners to make better use of resources from charitable and business sectors. The new approach was agreed subject to a 12 week public consultation and an assessment of the impact of the proposals.

7. The new approach includes using whichever funding routes (grants or contracts) provide the most effective way to achieve outcomes. The council wants to focus grant funding on community development and prevention and early intervention approaches and wants to encourage collaboration and access to additional funding from external sources.

Legal Framework – Equalities

8.   The Equality Duty, section 149 of the Equality Act, came into effect on 5th April 2011 and places a duty on all public bodies and others carrying out public functions. The Act was designed to ensure public bodies consider the needs of all individuals in their day to day work, including: shaping policy, delivering services and employment of employees. It requires public bodies, such as councils, not to discriminate against any person on the basis of a protected characteristic such as disability. The legislation strengthened existing provisions about discrimination to also include associative and perceptive discrimination as well as direct and indirect discrimination.

9.   Direct discrimination occurs when a rule, policy or practice offers less favourable treatment to a group. Direct discrimination will always be unlawful.

10.   Indirect discrimination occurs by introducing a rule, policy or practice that applies to everyone but particularly disadvantages people who have a protected characteristic. Indirect discrimination will not be unlawful if it can be justified, for instance it can be shown that the rule, policy or practice was intended to meet a legitimate objective in a fair, balanced and reasonable way. In considering whether or not any indirect discrimination is justified, the council must consider whether or not there is any other way to meet its objective that is not discriminatory or is less likely to disadvantage those with protected characteristics.

11.   The Public Sector Equality Duty (the Equality Duty) replaced three previous public sector equality duties, for race, disability and gender, and broadened the breadth of protected characteristics to include:
   * Age
   * Disability
   * Gender reassignment
   * Marriage and civil partnership, but only in respect of the requirements to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination
   * Pregnancy and maternity
   * Race – ethnic or national origins, colour or nationality
   * Religion or Belief – including lack of belief
   * Sex (Gender)
   * Sexual orientation.

12.   The Equality Duty does not impose a legal requirement to conduct an Equality Impact Assessment, rather it requires public bodies to demonstrate their consideration of the Equality Duty and the conscious thought of the Equality Duty as part of the process of decision-making. This entails an understanding of the potential effect the organisation's activities could have on different people and a record of how decisions were reached. Producing an Equality Impact Assessment post decision making is non-compliant with the Equality Duty. For this reason the council requires adherence to the existing impact assessment framework.

Legal Framework - Community Safety

13.	Community Safety is a broad term. It refers to the protection of local communities from the threat and consequence of criminal and anti-social behaviour by achieving reductions in relation to both crime and the fear of crime.

14.	Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006, requires responsible authorities to consider crime and disorder, including antisocial behaviour and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment; and the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the exercise of all their duties, activities and decision-making. This means consideration must be given to the likely impact on crime and disorder in the development of any policies, strategies and service delivery. This responsibility affects all employees of the Council.

15.	This responsibility is summed up by guidance issued by the Home Office. This guidance describes the legal responsibility as: '*a general duty on each local authority to take account of the community safety dimension in all of its work. All policies, strategies, plans and budgets will need to be considered from the standpoint of their potential contribution to the reduction of crime and disorder'.*

Scope and our approach

16.	This assessment identifies areas where there is a risk that changes resulting from the proposals, when considered together, have a negative impact on particular groups. It is important to note this is an ongoing process. As proposals are developed and implemented, they will be subject to further assessment. This assessment also describes mitigating actions that will need to be considered.

17.	The council's approach on assessing the impact of its policies, proposals and decisions is designed to demonstrate that it has acted over and above its statutory duties. This is reflected in including poverty in the ESIA, as the council is committed addressing the impact of poverty.

18.	ESIAs were developed for each individual grant recipient whose funding was affected by the proposals.

19.	This document gives a summary of the Equality and Safety Impact Assessments carried out in respect of individual organisations currently in receipt of grant funding through the commissioned grants programme.

Consultation – Process and Feedback

20. The proposals for a new approach to voluntary sector funding were subject to a 12 week public consultation between 2 December 2016 and 24 February 2017. Respondents were able to provide feedback on the proposals via an online survey, public meetings, one-to-one meetings and by email or phone. A report on the feedback received during the consultation has been submitted to decision makers alongside this report and is available on the council's website.

21. In total, there were 84 respondents to the consultation (53 organisations, 3 networks and 28 individuals). Overall there was a good level of engagement with the consultation. In total there were 47 responses to the online survey, 35 attendees at the open public meetings, 25 face to face meetings with individual organisations and 9 written submissions via email. This included feedback from 33 of the 34 current grant recipients that are directly affected by the proposals. In the last significant grants consultation in 2012 only 10 of the existing grant recipients engaged in the consultation, therefore the level of engagement in this consultation was a significant improvement. In total 544 comments were received and analysed.

22. A breakdown of the 53 organisations that responded to the consultation has shown that 58.5% are local organisations (i.e. primarily working and based in Southampton), 30% are regional organisations and the remaining 9.5% are national organisations.

23. The grant recipients were also given the opportunity to comment on their individual ESIA and these comments have been incorporated into the ESIAs. Any feedback about impact that was received during the consultation has also been incorporated.

Cumulative Impact Assessment

Proposed approach to awarding funding

24. The proposal to cease the current corporate grant programme in favour of an approach which identifies the appropriate funding route in each circumstance could potentially impact on all existing grant recipients in the commissioned grants programme.

25. There are no savings proposals attached to these changes. Instead it is a re-focus of how the existing resources are allocated. All future funding allocations will be made in line with the council's priority outcomes, as the current grant allocations are made now, and it is intended to develop funding streams on broadly similar areas lines as the grant funding is currently allocated to.

26. Between them, the existing grant recipients run services and activities that potentially have a positive impact on all the ESIA areas. As it is not yet known exactly what new funding streams will be offered this cumulative impact assessment is limited to providing an overview of the areas supported through the current grants

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and a general assessment of the potential impact of the proposals. The council will continue to work with affected organisations and update the ESIAs as the new funding streams develop.

<u>Current grants impact</u>

27.   Age – 24 of the current grant funded services can be identified as having a positive impact on specific age groups. These organisations primarily offer a range of activities for children and young people, with some services also aimed at older people. There is a particular focus on employment and skills and children and young people getting a good start in life – both of these continue to be priorities for the council.

28.   Disability – 16 of the current grant funded services can be identified as having a positive impact on services for disabled people. These organisations are working with people in the city facing multiple and complex barriers, including physical disability and mental health issues, primarily offering support for employment and skills, welfare advice and community action. All of these areas continue to be priorities for the council.

29.   Gender reassignment – two of the current grant funded services are supporting young people who are undergoing gender reassignment or considering it.

30.   Marriage and civil partnership – four of the current grant funded services identified marriage and civil partnership as an area where their service has a positive impact. Children and young people get a best start in life is one of the council's priority outcomes.

31.   Pregnancy and maternity – four of the current grant funded services can be identified as having a positive impact for expecting and new mothers, including young people and single parents. This is primarily offering support about welfare and health and wellbeing. Children and young people get a best start in life is one of the council's priority outcomes.

32.   Race – 13 of the current grant funded services are supporting BAME residents in a range of activities. This includes employment and skills, welfare advice and developing community groups. All of these areas continue to be priorities for the council.

33.   Religion or belief – six of the current grant funded services are supporting people with matters of religion or belief or are faith organisations providing services for local communities. This includes employment and skills, advice, play projects, youth projects and keeping people safe on night's out. All of these areas continue to be priorities for the council.

34. Sex – seven of the current grant funded services have projects that are targeted to one particular gender or the other. This includes supporting women or young men into training and employment, advice and projects that actively promote positive relationships between the genders. All of these areas continue to be priorities for the council.

35. Sexual orientation – five of the current grant funded services support children and young people who are lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender or questioning to explore and come to terms with their gender identity, and with their sexual orientation. Children and young people get a best start in life is one of the council's priority outcomes.

36. Community safety – 19 of the current grant funded services support community safety through helping to build cohesive communities in the city and supporting individuals to live safe, healthy, independent lives. This includes supporting people into employment and skills, providing play and youth activities, providing safe, reliable services for vulnerable people and keeping people safe on night's out. All of these areas continue to be priorities for the council.

37. Poverty – 26 of the current grant funded services are supporting adults on low incomes or children and young people from low income families. This includes support into employment, welfare advice, befriending services, financial inclusion and low cost activities that support children and young people's development. All of these areas continue to be priorities for the council.

38. Other significant impacts – the consultation highlighted moving to contracts could have a particular impact for smaller organisations, who may not currently have the skills and/or capacity to bid for contracts. This is significant as given the council's priorities for future funding streams are broadly similar to the current priorities the biggest impact is likely to be on organisations. Similar services will be commissioned to continue to provide support to residents, but there is a risk the contracts may not be won by the current grant holders.

Next steps:

39. If the move to a new funding approach is agreed the council will take mitigating actions, including (but not limited to), transition funding where it is clear the council will be commissioning a service in future, training to support voluntary sector organisations to move to contracts and ensuring its procurement process are proportionate.

40. As part of this new approach it is likely that the council will identify current grant funded services that it will not be commissioning in the future. Where such grants are identified the council will work with the affected organisation to understand the impact of the end of grant funding, including both the impact on service users and on the organisation. Where necessary further mitigating actions will be developed.

41.   The council's commissioning process is more inclusive than previous grant processes, involving both existing and potential providers in the design of service and funding models. If the proposed new funding approach is agreed voluntary sector organisations will have more opportunity to shape the funding on offer than they did previously with the grants programmes.

42.   The council will continue to work with affected organisations to monitor the impact of the new approach as the details are developed and take further mitigating actions if needed.

Proposed new criteria

43.   The council has updated its proposal following feedback during the consultation. It no longer proposes to adopt collaborative approaches and prioritising applications that can draw in match funding as criteria. Instead the council will aim to encourage collaborative approaches and match funding wherever possible.

Next steps:

44.   While it intends to follow a more informal approach to collaborative working and match funding, the council recognises that some voluntary sector organisations will still need support for this.

45.   The council produces a monthly funding newsletter, which in 2016/17 has supported local voluntary sector organisations to bring in over £800,000 of additional funding. The council is committed to continuing to provide this newsletter.

46.   The council is currently reviewing the needs for community development support in the city. The feedback gathered in this consultation will be used as starting point for discussions about what support voluntary sector organisations may need for developing and maintaining partnerships with other voluntary sector organisations as well as public and private sector organisations and for bringing in additional funding into the city.

Proposed increase in Community Chest funding and proposal to use the same criteria

47.   The council is proposing to increase the Community Chest small grants budget from £50,000 to £100,000 and to continue to use the same criteria for awarding the grants.

48.   Community Chest grants are funded against the council's four priority outcomes. These are one-off, one year grants that cannot be repeated the following year. The scheme has the potential to cover all ESIA areas, however, exactly what is funded each year depends on the applications received.

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49. Increasing the budget will have a positive impact for residents as more money will be available for community projects. Keeping the criteria the same has a neutral impact on voluntary sector organisations that can apply for funding under the existing scheme.

50. A potential knock on impact of moving the larger grants to contracts is that it may leave a gap in potential grant funding for organisations that are not eligible for Community Chest but who feel they are too small for contracts. Some respondents to the consultation suggested changes to the Community Chest criteria could bridge this gap.

51. The profile of the consultation respondents shows there were few comments on the proposals from small community groups, who are the main beneficiaries of the current Community Chest grant scheme. This imbalance may have skewed the responses about the Community Chest criteria proposal. Further consideration needs to be given to the criteria before any changes are made, to ensure changes made to support one section of the voluntary sector do not disadvantage another section of the voluntary sector.

Next steps:

52. The council is currently reviewing the needs for community development support in the city. The feedback gathered in this consultation will be used as starting point for discussions about suitable community funding programmes to enable communities to develop and help themselves.

53. Update: July 2019. The number of applications to Community Chest has not increased since the increase in funding. This means that successful applicants whose costs are all eligible and demonstrate Best Value are now receiving full funding where they would previously have only been part funded. However, it also means that not all the budget is allocated through the original two rounds per year. To ensure all the budget is allocated to community projects a mini grant of up to £500 for community celebrations has been introduced. It has a lighter touch approach to make it easier to apply for and applicants may submit applications to both Community Chest and the Celebrations Grant at the same time, providing they are for different events/activities. It is also available to larger organisations in the city. This has grant has proven popular and has increased access to the community funding for all residents.

54. The Celebrations Grant is aimed at bringing communities together and information from the first round in January 2019 is that it has had a positive impact in bringing different communities together. It will continue to be monitored and reviewed.

Proposals to continue to support the existing participatory budgeting grant scheme and extend participatory budgeting grant schemes into new areas

55.   Participatory budgeting grant schemes enable residents to make decisions about the services and activities they want to fund for their area. This empowers communities to take ownership of their local services.

56.   As with Community Chest, participatory budgeting grant schemes have the potential to cover all ESIA areas with exactly what is funded each year depending on the applications received.

57.   Some reservations were raised during the consultation that a public vote on funding can turn into a popularity contest, with less popular or more marginalised groups not receiving funding. If this happens there is potential for funding decisions to not fully represent the local community.

Next steps:

58.   The council will take into consideration the concerns raised in the consultation when reviewing the existing participatory budgeting scheme in Thornhill and designing the proposed new participatory budgeting schemes.