

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	13.
Date:	4 <sup>th</sup> April 2011	Status	Open
Category	3. Part of the Budget and Policy Framework		
Subject:	Equality Impact Assessment of changes to voluntary sector grants		
Report by:	Director of Resources		
Other Officers Involved	Equality Improvement Officer		
Director	Director of Resources		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor E. Watts, Leader of the Council		

#### **RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS**

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning. The Council is transparent in its assessment of the impact of reductions in the grants to the voluntary sector.

#### **TARGETS**

No impact directly on any targets.

#### **VALUE FOR MONEY**

The assessment provides a rigor to the approach adopted by the Council, thus reducing the potential grounds for any subsequent issues to be raised.

1. As part of the 2011/12 budget reports for the General Fund and the Housing Revenue Accounts members were advised that the budgets were based on a proposed reduction in funding to the voluntary sector.
2. The proposals were approved by Council in March and as a result of this an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been undertaken.
3. This EIA is attached to the report.
4. The EIA details the consultation process that has been and will be followed as a result of its consideration and approval by the Executive.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Financial: Reductions in grants are required to support the Council's budget and reflect similar reductions in grant for the Council.  
Legal: The EIA is recognised process for changes such as this.  
Human Resources: None.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**That the proposed reductions in grants be confirmed based on the completion of the EIA.**

## **REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION**

This is the approach reported to be undertaken in the budget reports.

ATTACHMENTS: **N**  
FILE REFERENCE: Director of Resources  
SOURCE DOCUMENT:

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING CHANGES IN 2011/12**

1. This assessment has taken into account the following documents:
  - Demographic Profiling Information
  - Single Equality Scheme 2011-15
  - Look beyond the label evaluation report
  - Guidance for conducting equality impacts, needs and requirements assessments and setting equality objectives and targets
  
2. The key aspects for this assessment relative to the above documents are:
  - District population of 71,766 in 2001 is estimated to have risen to 74,200 in 2009 (Office for National Statistics, 2009).
  - 25.81% of the total population have a long term limiting illness or disability, compared to 17.93% for England and Wales. Of the working age population (age 16 - 65), 22% are disabled. There are 8,860 households with different types of special need, including households with disabled people and elderly frail people, which is 27.7% of all households in the district (State of The District, 2008).
  - In Bolsover District, 3% (2484) of people provided 50 hours or more of unpaid care per week; 2% (1193) provided 29-49 hours of care per week and 8% (5410) provided 1-19 hours of care per week. Regionally, 2% of people provided 50 hours or more of unpaid care per week; 1% provided 29-49 hours of care per week and 7% provided 1-19 hours of care per week (Census 2001). In February 2005, more than twice as many women (69%) in the district received Carers Allowance than men (31%) (Department for Work & Pensions).
  - Almost 1 in 5 of the UK's total population are of state pension age, equating to 9440 for the district. At August 2009, there were 4090 Pension Credit claimants in the district, 67% of whom were female (Department for Work & Pensions, August 2009).
  - In 2001, 0.88% of the population of Bolsover District Council belonged to a black or ethnic minority community compared to the national average of 9.08% (Census 2001). According to estimates for 2007, the ethnic minority population in the district may have risen to 2% of the total estimated population of 74200 (Office for National Statistics, 2007).
  - 174 prosecutions for racially and religiously motivated hate crime 2008-09
  - Stonewall estimates that between 5-7% of the population are lesbian, gay or bisexual. This equates to an estimated 2800-4000 adults in Bolsover district (Demographic Profiling Information, 2010).

3. The budget for 2011/12 (General Fund and Housing Revenue Account) proposed the following funding:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Planned grants £</b>	<b>Proposed grants £</b>	<b>Change £</b>
Bolsover Countryside Partnership	10,000	7,700	-2,300
Citizen's Advice Bureau	55,000	42,200	-12,800
Community Voluntary Partners	30,000	23,000	-7,000
Councillor awards	7,400	0	-7,400
Derbyshire Economic Partnership	14,500	11,200	-3,300
Derbyshire Sport	11,420	8,800	-2,620
Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centres	25,830	19,900	-5,930
Groundwork Creswell	18,000	13,900	-4,100
Junction Arts	20,900	16,000	-4,900
Lunch Club Grants	2,000	2,000	0
Rural Action Derbyshire	2,950	2,265	-685
Trade Union Safety Team	4,750	3,650	-1,100

4. In considering these changes the Council has engaged with the community and voluntary sector to assess the engagement with the Council, current work theme that benefit the community and the organisations' assessment of the impact of reductions in funding.
5. The groups considered as potentially impacted upon as part of this EIA are:
- Disabled people
  - Older people
  - Ethnic minority people (particularly migrant workers)
  - Young people (especially NEETs)
  - Men and women
6. Groups addressing the following were considered but not seen to be subjected to a higher level of impact are:
- Sexual orientation
  - Gender identity
  - Religion or belief
  - Marriage and civil partnership

None of the projects target the above client groups; numbers within the population are low for sexual orientation and transgender and without service user monitoring data it is difficult to establish need. No issues have been raised by the county LGBT Forum.

7. There are potential adverse health impacts, which relate to partnership efforts to tackle health inequalities.
8. Some groups such as disabled or older people, and people with caring responsibilities are more likely to be economically inactive and socially excluded, so there is an impact arising from reduced funding for projects which meet their needs. Changes to the benefit system are driving an increase in advice needs, particularly from disabled people, which should diminish as the Universal Benefit is implemented.
9. The district has a migrant community and a Gypsy Traveller community. The migrant worker community has developed links with some of the funded projects and there have been job losses within this group resulting in increased inquiries. There are no known issues relating to the Gypsy Traveller community based on feedback from community forums.
10. Younger people not in education, training or employment (NEETs) can be at risk of social exclusion and disadvantage with resulting adverse socio-economic and health impacts through the lifecourse. 41.35% of the district's population have no qualifications, compared to 31.64% of the population in the East Midlands. Risk of disengagement if activities which raise aspirations and provide wider opportunities for young people are scaled back.
11. Gender impacts are complex. Women in the district live longer than men, but are more likely to have caring responsibilities or be economically inactive. Disability is also associated with older age. Women and men experiencing domestic violence have access to county-wide specialist advice and support services.

#### Advice Services

12. There is a known adverse impact for advice services based on the County Council decision to redirect funding to services in the south of the county area.
13. There is an increased take up, primarily due to changes in the benefits system and economic changes in the job market.
14. This change needs to be evidenced with our voluntary sector partners in order to assess which groups are most affected by these changes at the local level.
15. The Council has an objective for Social Inclusion - promoting fairness, equality and life long learning. The change to the funding seeks to maintain positive links with the partner organisations to allow for the achievement of existing projects. The Corporate Plan to be consulted upon for 2011/12 onwards will provide future direction relative to this work.

16. For the last 3 years the Council has been in receipt of Working Neighbourhood Funding. This funding has now ceased but projects will continue in 2011/12 based on funding carried over between financial years. Whilst this is reduced funding it is not the complete withdrawal; as such allows the organisations to manage this change.
17. Going forward we need increase monitoring of the take up of the services offered by these voluntary sector organisations to take into account the Council's equality responsibilities (public sector duties).

### **Adverse impact - mitigation**

18. Mitigation is achieved in part by maintaining existing funding to allow organisations to manage any transitional arrangements to reduce costs or seek other funding streams.
19. The Council will have to assess future outputs against the lower levels of funding.
20. As part of the Government's Austerity Programme all public bodies are required to seek out ways of doing more with less. This approach encourages this by maintaining partnership working to develop clearer shared objectives to align with the new corporate plan.
21. The Council is currently assessing priorities for the use of any under spend on WNF. One of the successful WNF projects has been the apprentice scheme that if it were to continue would go some way to minimise the impact on NEETs.
22. The Council will continue to provide a range of services including benefit advice, external funding, Family Employment Initiative, Domestic Violence Advisors, Home Improvements Agency (energy saving etc), grants for disabled facilities, discretionary rates for Council Leisure Services, etc.
23. Access points are being maintained at the Contact Centres and the internet site has been redesigned to enable greater use.
24. Contracts placed by the council do where appropriate take into account organisations which work with disadvantaged young people to create employment opportunities. Examples being Groundwork Creswell, Shaw Trust etc.
25. The work with Derbyshire County Council will continue. This will provide to the relevant sectors of the community concessionary travel, lunch clubs, community safety, etc.
26. Health improvement activities will still be done in partnership with PCT and successor organisations.

## **Consultation**

27. The national Compact 2010 and the Derbyshire Compact set out a framework which underpins the relationship between the public and voluntary and community sectors. Principles include consultation with the third sector on policy issues which are likely to affect it.
28. This equality impact assessment will be circulated to internal and external interest groups for feedback.
29. The Chief Executive has undertaken briefing events with the voluntary sector about the budget implications giving opportunity for issues to be raised.
30. Compact principles are embedded in the LSPs Sustainable Communities Strategy.
31. In line with the National Code of Good Practice on Funding and Procurement, the Shared Procurement Unit has carried out briefing sessions with voluntary and community sector organisations on tendering with the public sector.
32. The assessment has been undertaken in consultation with the Council's Equality Improvement Officer.

John Brooks  
Director of Resources

March 2011