

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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| Name of Policy, Decision, Strategy, Service or Function, Other: (please indicate) | Neighbourhood Forums Grants Review | |
| Lead Officer Name(s) Job Title(s): | Fiona Meechan, Director for Customers and Communities Alison Wilkins, Locality Manager | |
| Department/Service Area: | Place Directorate Communities Team | |
| Telephone & E-mail Contact: | 01706 25 2429 fionameechan@rossendalebc.gov.uk 01706 25 2593 alisonwilkins@rossendalebc.gov.uk | |
| Date Assessment: | Commenced: June 2013 | Completed: October 2013 – On-going as needed |

We carry out Equality Impact Assessments (EIAs) to analyse the effects of our decisions, policies or practices. The EIA should be undertaken/started at the beginning of the policy development process – before any decisions are made.

1. Overview

The main aims/objectives of this policy¹ are:

As part of the on-going financial cuts the Council must undertake, this policy decision proposes to continue to support Neighbourhood Forum grants for another 12 months at the reduced amount of £20,000. During which time a fundamental review and consultation on the long term future of the Neighbourhood Forums will be undertaken.

The current Neighbourhood Forum grant provision of £70,000 was agreed for three years 2010/11-2013/14 to support the delivery of Neighbourhood Forum three-year action plans. This is due to end March 2014. Therefore the proposed £20,000 for an additional 12 months grant funding will enable some reduced, but continued support to the Neighbourhood Forums activities while the long term review is undertaken and alternatives for other funding sources are considered by the Neighbourhood Forums.

Neighbourhood Forum grants have been used to fund small one off pieces of work/activity or one off, time limited, fixed projects on a very local basis, not aimed at supporting a particular protected equality group as defined by the Equality Act 2010. As the review of the future of the Neighbourhood Forums continues, the impact assessment will be reflected on accordingly as and where necessary.

Is the policy or decision under review (please tick)

New/proposed

Modified/adapted

Existing

Date of Review²: As required.

¹ Policy refers to any policy, strategy, project, procedure, function, decision or delivery of service.

² This date will be set on an annual basis as default for review unless otherwise specified by you.

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| Responsible Section/Team | Place Directorate / Communities Team | Version | 1.01 |
| Responsible Author | Director for Customers & Communities; Locality Manager | Due for review | As required |
| Date last amended | 03.10.13 | Page 1 of 3 | |

Appendix 1B
2. Equality Impact

| Equality | | Positive Impact (It could benefit) | Negative Impact (It could disadvantage) | Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts <u>or</u> reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution) | No Impact |
|----------|--------------|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Age | Older people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <p>All Council decisions will be taken in line with its Equality Policy and associated duties. The Neighbourhood Forum grant funding has been used to deliver actions to support local priorities set out in the Neighbourhood Forum action plans for an agreed three years - to support their three-year action plans. Whilst they provide a general positive impact for the local community; it should be noted that these were not specifically targeted at any one specific protected equality group.</p> <p>Therefore with the information available to date, it is considered that the proposed reduction of grant funding to Neighbourhood Forums will not have a significant disproportionate impact on any protected equality groups, nor would the impact be as a direct result of possessing any particular protected characteristic. The proposed £20,000 reduced grant funding for an additional 12 months provides mitigation to reduce the transition impact on the local community as far as is reasonably possible. As the review of the future of the Neighbourhood Forums continues, the impact assessment will be reflected on accordingly as and where necessary.</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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Appendix 1B

| Equality | | Positive Impact (It could benefit) | Negative Impact (It could disadvantage) | Reason and any mitigating actions already in place (to reduce any adverse /negative impacts or reasons why it will be of positive benefit or contribution) | No Impact |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| | Younger people and children | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Disability | Physical/learning/mental health | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Gender Reassignment | Transsexual people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Race (Ethnicity or Nationality) | Asian or Asian British people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Black or black British people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Irish people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | White British | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Chinese people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Gypsies & Travellers | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other minority communities not listed above (please state) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Belief or Religion | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Gender | Women | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | Men | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Sexual Orientation | Gay men, gay women / lesbians and bisexual people | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership (employment only) | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | N/A | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Contribution to equality of opportunity | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Contribution to fostering good relations between different groups (people getting on well together – valuing one another, respect and understanding) | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | As above. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Human Rights http://intranet/site/scripts/documents_info.php?categoryID=86&documentID=251 | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | All Council decisions will be undertaken in compliance with the Human Rights Act 1998. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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