



Proposal Title	Review of Grant Funded Community Centres
Proposal No.	NH-2019-20-022
Proposal Type	Service Delivery
Directorate	Neighbourhoods
Service Area	Townships & Communities

Recommendation

- 1.1 Members are asked to consider the proposal to reduce funding to grant funded community centres for consultation as part of the Savings Programme 2019/20 – 2020/21.

Reason for Recommendation

- 2.1 To support the Council's requirement to deliver a balanced budget for 2019/20 & 2020/21.

Rochdale Council has historically financed community centres at a level far higher than other local authorities across Greater Manchester. In total the Council supports 24 centres; this proposal relates to the 15 grant-funded centres.

The Council has tended to focus on sustaining the centres themselves and has not been specific in the commissioning of services that are delivered within the buildings.

With reduced funding, the Council could reduce its overall budget available for centres and use the remaining monies available as a community investment fund. This could allow centres to bid for funding to deliver commissioned or targeted relevant services in their areas.

The Council would need to agree a process for commissioning or the criteria for an investment fund in good time to be in a position to commission by April 2019 when centres traditionally receive the first of four quarterly payments.

Of the 15 grant funded centres, 11 are owned or leased by the Council. Of the council owned centres, there are a further 9 that are budget managed by the Council. The Council would continue to support the management of the assets

of both grant funded and budget managed community centres. The budget for repairs/maintenance/ surveys/corporate landlord for the Council owned buildings is £260,000 for 2018/19.

There is an opportunity for centres to review their purpose and look at other sources in order to independently sustain themselves.

Key Points for Consideration

3.1	<p>This report proposes a reduction of 50% for two consecutive years to the overall Community Centres grant budget in 2019/20 and 2020/21.</p> <p>The reduction will achieve a saving of £202,640 in year 1 and a saving of £101,320 in year 2, giving a total saving of £303,960. This would leave a budget available of £101,320 available in year 3.</p> <p><u>Overall Impact of the proposed change</u></p>
4.1	<p>Each of the 15 grant funded centres is responsible for managing its own budget - it is not possible to say what the overall impact would be to each centre</p> <p>In addition to these 15 centres, the Council budget manages 9 other centres which are not impacted by this proposal.</p> <p><u>Impact on affected service</u></p>
5.1	<p>Although there have been some reductions in funding, community centres have received funding from the Council for a number of years at a similar level to previous years. Previous proposals to reduce funding to individual centres have resulted in claims from centres that they would not be able to survive a reduction.</p> <p>Services delivered through centres are not commissioned. Quarterly reports are provided on areas of activity from individual centres.</p> <p>The remaining monies could be used to create a community investment fund. This could allow centres to bid for funding to deliver commissioned or targeted relevant services in their areas.</p>
6.1	<p><u>Savings total</u></p> <p>£303,960</p>

Background

7.1

There is no statutory duty to fund community centres. However, it is recognised that community Centres provide a valuable service to the communities they serve. They should meet the needs of their individual communities and have a significant impact upon the health and wellbeing of individuals and the quality of life of people in the community.

Currently 15 Community Centres receive annual grants from the Council to enable them to deliver community activity.

Implementation of this proposal would considerably reduce the funding available to grant funded community centres and would result in a requirement for them to become self-funding in the future.

The Council may wish to develop and provide a model of investment in a community investment fund or commission targeted and relevant services, rather than grant funded, from 2019/20. Criteria would be developed with the portfolio holder and the fund would be delivered in line with co-operative principles.

8.1

Alternatives Considered

No alternatives were considered as part of this proposal.

Members could decide not to take the proposal forward and to identify alternative savings proposals

Costs and Budget Summary

9.1 The saving proposal is 50% of the total budget for the area of service affected during 2019/20, and 50% of the remaining budget for 2020/21. Table 1 provides details of the proposals

Table 1

	Savings 2019/20 £k		Savings 2020/21 £k		Total savings £k	
	On-going	One off	On-going	One off	On-going	One off
Employees						
Other Costs	203		101		304	
Income lost (<i>show as a minus</i>)						
Net savings						
Additional income generated (<i>show as a positive figure</i>)						
Total savings	203		101		304	
Implementation costs						
Total savings less implementation costs	203		101		304	

Risk and Policy Implications

10.1 Risk Implications

Due to the long period in sustained funding, it is considered that some community Centres may have become reliant on Council funding. There will be a need for them to review their purpose and look at ways to independently sustain themselves. Some Centres may wish to seek alternative sources of funding, or to take part in a commissioning process. This could lead to some significantly reducing the services they provide, and the possibility that some may close.

11.1 Voluntary Sector Impact

The following Voluntary Sector impacts arise from the issues raised in this report as set out below:

The voluntary sector delivers a number of services from community centres, including health and well-being, advice sessions, language sessions, I.T. classes. A reduction in funding to community centres may in some cases reduce the ability of communities to access such services

12.1 Legal Implications

The Council has a Compact agreement with the voluntary sector. Any proposed reduction in funding would need to be implemented in line with the terms of that agreement.

13.1 Equalities Impact

Individual Community Groups may receive a reduced level of support if a reduction in Community Centre funding is approved.

The detailed Equality Impact Assessment is provided at Appendix 1.

Consultation

14.1 Elected Members, Community Centres and User Groups via Public Consultation

14.2 The Council must ensure that it remains open minded throughout the consultation period to all alternative proposals and expressions of interest.

Background Papers	Place of Inspection
8.	

For Further Information Contact:	Valery White Valery.white@rochdale.gov.uk 01706 924858
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Appendix 1

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR SAVINGS PROPOSALS

Proposal Title: Review of Grant Funded Community Centre

Stage 1: Initial Screening	
Directorate: Neighbourhoods	
Service: Townships	
Officer completing EIA: Valery White	
Other officers involved in completing EIA: N/A	
Date of Assessment: 26/06/18	
Name of policy to be assessed: Community Centre Savings Proposal	
Is this a new or revised policy? New <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revised <input type="checkbox"/>	
What is the purpose of the policy? To consider the proposal to reduce funding to grant funded community centres for consultation as part of the Savings Programme 2019/20 – 2020/21	
Are there any other objectives? No	
Who is likely to benefit from the policy (key stakeholders)? N/A	
Is the policy relevant to equality? Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(Answer yes if you think that the policy has equality considerations for example it has the potential to affect groups in different ways. If you have answered yes, proceed to question 1. If you answered no, move to the sign off section as no further assessment is required)</i>	

What information do you have to inform this initial assessment?

Quarterly monitoring information is collected from community centres. Information obtained includes timetables, numbers of visitors, types of sessions. This information clearly shows that the centres provide services benefitting a wide range of community groups.

What is the potential impact that the policy could have with regard to the protected characteristics?

It is not possible to say specifically what the potential impact would be, as centres would need to look at how they allocated any reduced funding in their own organisations. If the proposal were to be implemented, an individual EIA would be needed for each community centre to look at location/demographics/user data/services provided.

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	Impact Score (1-16)	Impact priority (H/M/L)	Neutral Impact
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16	H	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12	H	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender Reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage or civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	M	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16	H	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4	L	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving / ex serving members of the armed forces	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	8	M	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	16	H	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Do any of your negative impact scores identify as high priority on the impact table?

Yes No

If you identify a negative impact as being **HIGH PRIORITY** you must complete a full EIA (stage 2 onwards)

4. How will you minimise/remove any negative impact that identifies as medium or low?

(Identify the actions that you will take to minimise or remove these negative impacts by completing an

action plan as at Appendix 1)

5. Is a full EIA required?

Yes No

Lead Officer Signature:



Date:
26/06/18

Approver Signature



Date:
26/06/18

Stage 2: Full EIA

1. What data / evidence do you have to inform the EIA?

(List all available data and evidence that shows groups having different needs, experiences or attitudes in relation to the policy. Use the information from the initial screening plus collect any additional data)

Age	Monitoring information shows that community centres offer services to all age groups, from pre-school to post-retirement.
Disability	Monitoring information shows that some community centres offer services and sessions to disability related groups.
Gender Reassignment	No evidence in relation to community centres
Marriage or civil partnership	
Pregnancy or maternity	
Race	Community Centres are expected to cater for all races. However, the individual EIA's for centres would need to analyse the impact locally for Race Equality Impact.
Religion or belief	Monitoring information shows that some centres provide sessions or activities in relation to particular religions.
Sex	No evidence in relation to community centres
Sexual orientation	No evidence in relation to community centres
Serving / ex serving members of the armed forces	Information unavailable, there is no mechanism for identifying members of this group.
Carers	Monitoring information shows that community centres offer a number of services that will be accessed by carers.

2. What are the key messages coming from this data?

A reduction in funding to community centres will lead to a reduction in services provided to meet community needs in some areas.

3. What gaps are there in the data?

Each community centre offers different services to its users, depending on location, demographics, local priorities and local needs. If this proposal is accepted it will be necessary to carry out individual EIA's to accurately assess the likely impact on each individual centre and of users and groups within

each centre.

4. What consultation feedback do you have to inform this EIA?

(Outline any stakeholder consultation or engagement that you have undertaken and state the feedback received from groups that highlights different needs, experiences or attitudes in relation to the policy)

Age	N/A
Disability	N/A
Gender Reassignment	N/A
Marriage or civil partnership	N/A
Pregnancy or maternity	N/A
Race	N/A
Religion or belief	N/A
Sex	N/A
Sexual orientation	N/A
Serving / ex serving members of the armed forces	N/A
Carers	N/A

5. What is the overall impact that the policy is likely to have on different groups?

(Outline the overall impact that the policy will have on different groups from the data and feedback collected. Show how you reached your conclusions; decide on the priorities and identify actions. Complete an action plan outlining the actions that you will take to minimise any impacts. Include any positive impacts in your assessment because these might be important to the decision making process.)

Age	Each community centre offers different services to its users, depending on location, demographics, local priorities and local needs. If this proposal is accepted it will be necessary to carry out individual EIA's to accurately assess the likely impact on each individual centre and of users and groups within each centre.
Disability	
Gender Reassignment	
Marriage or civil partnership	

Pregnancy or maternity	
Race	
Religion or belief	
Sex	
Sexual orientation	
Serving / ex serving members of the armed forces	
Carers	



6. What are the conclusions from undertaking the full EIA?

This EIA is produced in relation to community centres as a whole.

If a proposal is accepted it is recommended that individual EIAs be carried out to assess the likely impact on each centre.

7. Does the policy meet our equality obligations?

Yes No

Lead Officer Signature:		Date: 26/06/18
Approver Signature		Date: 26/06/18

Community Centres Funding Proposal – Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

- Work with the new organisation commissioned to replace CVS in supporting the voluntary sector
- Meet with individual centres to discuss the likely impact of the proposals
- Work with the Community Base Network to look at alternative ways of providing community-based services, programmes and activities
- Work with partner agencies to look at existing community needs and existing provision
- To involve the community to facilitate co-operative working
- Continue to promote community cohesion and physical integration