

Argyll and Bute Council: Equality and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment

Section 1: About the proposal

Title of Proposal

Re-alignment of grants to Council priorities

Intended outcome of proposal

Amalgamation and realignment of the following to support delivery of the Council's priorities allowing local organisations and communities to submit applications for the combined grant pot.

- Strategic Events and Festivals (£90,000)
- Community Grants (£103,950)
- Education – Early Years Third Sector Grants and Services (£105,420)

This involves use of the Council's Priorities Fund to maintain the budget in 2024/25, and then reduce the combined budget in years 2 and 3 by one third and two thirds respectively.

This Equalities Impact Assessment is based on the 'Commuv.-1.7 (bas)-1.8 (ed on t)antbas

totals £103,950 and comprises:

£90,000 for the 'Supporting Communities Fund'. An annual fund with £22,500 per administrative area allocated to a wide range of community groups and organisations (including parent councils) on the basis of an application evidencing criteria agreed at Policy and Resources and related to needs as per evidence from community consultations.

£13,950 for the support to Gaelic festivals as part of an SLA with Fèisean nan Gàidheal.

A review of the current, separate, grant application processes will be undertaken to provide a single point of entry for customers, making it easier to submit online applications for the grant funding.

A reduction in the grant funding currently used to support the running costs of a number of third sector groups may result in these non-statutory groups/organisations closing or ending certain activities.

Business Outcome(s) / Corporate Outcome(s) to which the proposal contributes

Amalgamation of the grants provides an increased level of flexibility for communities in terms of the type of project that can be applied for, and contributes to delivery of the Council's priorities.

Lead officer details:

**Negative No
impact**

	Negative	No impact	Positive	Don't know
Communities of place	X			
Communities of interest	X			

If you have identified any impacts on service deliverers, explain what these will be.

The Supporting Communities Fund has provided funding which enables volunteers to run projects. This has an impact of increasing volunteers. To reduce this would mean a negative impact.

The fund has also funded the employment of people to undertake projects.

If any 'don't know's have been identified, at what point will impacts on these groups become identifiable?

We do not have information on the protected characteristics (age, gender etc) of volunteers of community organisations.

How has 'due regard' been given to any negative impacts that have been identified?

By amalgamating the community grant funds with the other funds and also by reducing the total amount to be applied for (e.g. from the current level of £2,500 maximum to half of this) then there may be an opportunity to limit the number of groups impacted. However, it would be likely that projects would not be as impactful. Other sources of funding to bring into the fund, from external providers such as the National Lottery could be considered but at this point cannot be guaranteed as a supplementary source of funds.