

Key Decision taken by an Officer

Chief Officer: Hannah Doody, Chief Executive, Merton Council

Date: 30 December 2022

Agenda item: N/A

Wards: All

Subject: Merton Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023/26

Lead director: Louise Round, Executive Director of Innovation and Change
John Morgan, Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Integrated Care and Public Health

Lead officer: John Dimmer, Interim Head of Corporate Policy and Improvement, Corporate Services
Keith Burns, Interim Assistant Director, Commissioning, Community & Housing

Lead member: Councillor Eleanor Stringer, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Civic Pride

Contact officer: Amanda Roberts; Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Officer
(020 8545 4685 / amanda.roberts@merton.gov.uk)
Heather Begg, Commissioning Officer, Adult Social Care
(020 8545 4515 / heather.begg@merton.gov.uk)

Recommendation:

(1) That the Chief Officer agrees the allocation of funding for each of the four elements of the Merton Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023 – 2026 as set out in Appendix III and summarised in paragraphs 2.7 - 2.15.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report sets out the proposed allocation of £4,917,252.67 to the voluntary and community sector organisations who applied for grant funding from the Merton Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023/26. A positive and significant increase of 35% more funding than the previous Strategic Partner Programme 2019-22.
- 1.2. With Nurturing Civic Pride being one of the new administration's key priorities for Merton, the funding programme has involved extensive engagement and collaborative working alongside the voluntary and community sector benchmarking and researching into the national, regional and local context. Understanding how and where our residents need support reflects our commitment to putting Civic Pride at the heart of

our borough. We want people to feel proud to live, work and visit in Merton.

- 1.3. It was agreed by Cabinet that all core funding that goes to the voluntary sector and the local area should come under the overarching umbrella of a Merton 'Civic Pride Fund' (CPF). Under this umbrella fund, the current Strategic Partner Programme has been renamed the 'Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector' fund to reflect our commitment to investing in the local VCS infrastructure that supports our local communities.
- 1.4. Also included under this wider umbrella is a separate 'Investing in Neighbourhoods' fund (formally Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund).
- 1.5. This report follows from the Cabinet report on 19th September 2022 on the 'Merton Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023/26 - commissioning requirements.'
- 1.6. Cabinet agreed in September the approach and criteria for a new expanded Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023-26.
- 1.7. This fund aims to:
 - invest in and support Merton's local voluntary and community infrastructure
 - nurture a strong sense of community and reduce inequalities
 - bring together preventative services that provide information, advice and support in the community to strengthen Merton residents' physical, social, emotional, and economic resilience
- 1.8. The new fund has four pots of funding, which are aligned with the council's 'Working Better With Communities' framework.
 1. **Services that provide help:** the services that provide emergency assistance to people in crisis and direct help to adults in need.
 2. **Services that grow strengths and capabilities:** the services that provide good quality information, support and non-accredited advice, accredited advice and casework and specialist and/or legal representation where necessary.
 3. **Active, supportive communities:** the services that co-design support and solutions with people and communities to help grow their relationships and connections and increase their level of activity. This will include low level preventative activities and Healthwatch Merton.
 4. **An enabling system and place:** the services that help to support an enabling system and place. This will include voluntary and community sector infrastructure support and the provision of small grants.
- 1.9. Cabinet also agreed the [Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector Prospectus 2023-26](#) that formed the basis of the criteria used to select the

strategic partners and approved the scoring methodology and weighting to assess providers, as set out at Appendix II.

- 1.10. A Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector funding panel was established to assess the applications across all themes and funding pots. Membership of this panel is set out at Appendix I. In accordance with the existing arrangements the panel has made recommendations to the responsible Chief Officer who will take a decision on the funding allocation, as set out in this paper.
- 1.11. The funding panel met on 29, 30 November and 6 December 2022 to consider bids to the Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023-2026 fund.
- 1.12. The panel recommends that 24 projects receive Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector funding totalling £4,917,252.67 over the 2023 - 2026 period, as set out at Appendix III.

2. DETAIL

- 2.1. The application process for the Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector fund was opened on 3rd October 2022 with a deadline of 11th November 2022. A total of forty applications were received. The following applications were received for each element.
 - Services that provide help - 5
 - Services that grow strengths and capabilities - 13
 - Active, supportive communities - 20
 - An enabling system and place – 2
- 2.2. To support smaller organisations through the application process online webinars, 1:1 support sessions and virtual workshops were facilitated by both Merton Council and Merton Connected.
- 2.3. A funding panel was convened on 29 and 30 November and 6 December to score applications against the weighted criteria, including the ways of working set out in the funding prospectus. Each funding element and the applications to that element were considered separately i.e. there were four separate and discrete processes to assess funding for each of the four elements. Applications for each element were scored and ranked. Any that were found to fall below the minimum threshold of a weighted score of 60 or fell outside the scope set out in the Prospectus were automatically not eligible. Funding allocations were then considered for each theme based on ranking.
- 2.4. Details of membership of these panels is included at Appendix I. Details of the scoring system are set out at Appendix II, along with the panel's scoring, commentary and funding recommendations at Appendix III. An overview of the panel's recommendations is at Appendix IV and the Equality Analysis assessing the impact of the recommendations is set out at Appendix V. We have set out in Appendix III the scores against the four funding criteria and a short commentary that summarises panel assessments. These provide a snapshot, but the panel has a more detailed assessment of the scoring.

- 2.5. The Equality Analysis found mostly positive impacts. The range of services recommended for funding will ensure equal access to all members of the community and can be targeted at those people and areas with the highest levels of need.
- 2.6. Any potential negative impact for voluntary and community sector organisations that have not met, or who were not eligible to reach the more detailed criteria we used to decide who our Strategic Partners will be mitigated through the actions outlined in the attached Equality Analysis Improvement Action Plan.

SERVICES THAT PROVIDE HELP

Emergency Assistance

- 2.7. There were three applications for funding under the Emergency Assistance sub-theme. Two bids were successful, and the funding panel recommends a total allocation of £75,000 for 2023/26. The detailed funding recommendations and amounts are set out in Appendix III.

Direct Help

- 2.8. There were two applications for funding under the Direct Help sub-theme. One bid was successful, and the funding panel recommends a total allocation of £30,945 for 2023/26. The detailed funding recommendations and amounts are set out in Appendix III.
- 2.9. There were two applications that the panel felt did not meet the required standard for Direct Help for Adults in Need (as specified in their applications) although the bids were relevant for Emergency Assistance and were therefore evaluated against this theme.
- 2.10. The panel agreed to use the remaining funding not allocated under the Direct Help theme to support Preventative Activities, as this theme was so heavily oversubscribed.

SERVICES THAT GROW STRENGTHS AND CAPABILITIES

- 2.11. There were thirteen applications for funding under the Services that Grow Strengths and Capabilities theme. Ten bids were successful, and the funding panel recommends a total allocation of £2,894,979 for 2023/26. The detailed funding recommendations and amounts are set out in Appendix III.

ACTIVE, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

Preventative Activities

- 2.12. There were nineteen applications for funding to the Preventative Activities sub-theme. Eight bids were successful, and the funding panel recommends a total allocation of £734,028.67 for 2023/26. The detailed funding recommendations and amounts are set out in Appendix III.
- 2.13. As this theme had a large number of strong applications, far exceeding the funding available, the panel made the decision to discuss alternative funding arrangements with four organisations. These organisations have agreed to withdraw their funding applications and are in ongoing conversations with the Council to confirm future opportunities. The Council would like to acknowledge its gratitude to these organisations for the flexibility demonstrated. This has enabled a wide a reach as possible for preventative activities, making best use of available funding.

Healthwatch Merton

- 2.14. There was one application under the Healthwatch Merton sub-theme, and the panel recommends a total allocation of £375,000 for 2023/26 from this funding pot. The detailed funding recommendations and amounts are set out in Appendix III.

AN ENABLING SYSTEM AND PLACE

Infrastructure Support

- 2.15. There were two applications under the Infrastructure Support sub-theme. Two bids were successful, and the panel recommends a total allocation of £807,300 for 2023/26 from this funding pot. The detailed funding recommendations and amounts are set out in Appendix III.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Chief Executive could choose to fund other organisations instead of those recommended by the panel. However, this action would be in conflict with the evaluation and judgement process that was followed by the panel in coming to their recommendations in line with the Cabinet Report of 19 September 2022.
- 3.2. The Chief Executive could choose to roll over funding solely for those organisations currently commissioned in 2022-23 at a similar or alternative level. However, this would conflict with Cabinet's decision to apply a competitive process against the criteria for this funding, which was subject to extensive consultation with the VCS.

4. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. A number of engagement activities have informed the proposals for this fund:
- 4.2. Transforming How We Work with Communities project, and as part of this the listening and engagement work to shape the Working Better with Communities Framework.
- 4.3. Your Merton engagement and findings report.
- 4.4. VCS community response monthly steering group.
- 4.5. COVID-19 Impact reports for people with dementia and their carers, people with a learning disability and their carers, people from black and minority ethnic communities and young people.
- 4.6. Merton Connected 'State of the Sector' report.
- 4.7. The outcomes of the Big Conversation for people with a learning disability.
- 4.8. A large online engagement event facilitated by Collaborate CIC took place on the 27 April 2022 and has helped to determine the collaborative approach to shaping the programme. This was attended by over 50 people, with a good range of attendance from both smaller and larger VCS organisations. At the event, initial ideas were sought on the principles underpinning the work, the process, the vision, and the proposed outcomes of the programme.
- 4.9. Delegates also were invited to put their names forward to join a future Collaborative Working Group. Consultation took place through this group of voluntary sector representatives, service commissioners and an independent chair. The group met a total of five times and detailed feedback on the prospectus from this group was captured in a feedback log.
- 4.10. The formal consultation on the prospectus was open from 21 July to 16 August 2022. This was promoted by Merton Council and organisations across the voluntary sector. A total of five responses were received, with one further response received after the deadline.
- 4.11. Conversations with commissioners within the council and beyond took place throughout this process. The early proposals were taken to a commissioner's workshop on 24 May 2022.

5. TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The timetable for the application and consideration of bids is set out below:

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Deadline for Civic Pride Fund bids | 11 November 2022 |
| Panel meets to consider bids and make recommendations | 29, 30 November and 6 December 2022 |
| Decision taken by the Chief Executive | 30 December 2022 |
| Notification of funding decision | By 5 January 2022 |

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Notification of Notional Funding (rent) | By 31 January 2023 |
| Funding commences for successful applicants | 1 April 2023 |

- 5.2. New funding agreements for the Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector programme will begin on 1 April 2023, for all allocated funding.
- 5.3. Following key decision approval, letters will be sent to all organisations, the Council website will be updated with the outcomes and a communications plan will be developed, which will include an article in My Merton.
- 5.4. To further support and develop Merton’s small, volunteer and community led organisations, including diversity-led groups, the Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector, will allocate funding for smaller groups to build in opportunities and address challenges around infrastructure and capacity. This will be administered via Merton Giving to the value of £50,000pa for the next 3 years (starting in April 2023).

6. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The following table details the confirmed funding available for four key themes in Civic Pride Fund (CPF): Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector:

| Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector | Annual amount | 3 years 2023-2026 |
|---|---|---|
| Services that provide help | | |
| Services that provide emergency assistance to people in crisis | £25,000 | £75,000 |
| Services that provide direct help to adults 18+ in need | £55,000 (£10,315 has been allocated) | £165,000 (£30,945 has been allocated) The surplus £134,028.67 funding was transferred to preventative activities |
| Services that grow strengths and capabilities | | |
| Telephone/digital/face to face information, advice, accredited advice, casework and specialist and legal representation | £964,993 | £2,894,979 Of this funding, £1,232,679 is allocated specifically for adults in need and the remaining funding for all ages |
| Active, supportive communities | | |
| Preventative activities for adults 18+ in need | £200,000 | £600,000* In addition to this funding, £134,028.67 was transferred from |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| | | services that provide help |
| Healthwatch | £125,000 | £375,000 |
| An enabling system and place | | |
| Infrastructure support | £269,100 | £807,300 |
| Total (New Allocation) | £1,639,093 | £4,917,279 |

- 6.2. The cost of the Services that Provide Help element proposed in this report is £240,000 over three years 2023-2026 (excluding notional funding). This can be met within the current core budget and adult social care funding (£165,000).
- 6.3. The cost of the Services that Grow Strengths and Capabilities element proposed in this report is £2,894,979 over three years 2023-2026 (excluding notional funding). This can be met within the current core budget and adult social care funding (£1,232,679).
- 6.4. The total grants allocation for Preventative Activities is £734,028.67 over three years 2023-2026 (excluding notional funding). This can be met from Adult Social Care core budget and the Better Care Fund budget.
- 6.5. The grant funding available for Healthwatch Merton is £375,000 over the three years 2023-2026. This is met predominately from Corporate Services budget (£100,000 per annum) with the remainder met from the Department of Health Local Reform and Community Voices grant.
- 6.6. The cost of the Enabling System and Place element proposed in this report is £807,300 over three years 2023-2026 (excluding notional funding). This can be met within the current core budget.
- 6.7. There are no current Strategic Partners who applied for funding who were unsuccessful in their applications. However, there are some organisations that have not applied for grant funding. There is no provision in the Civic Pride budget for any transitional arrangements for organisations who will no longer be funded in the next financial year. However, ongoing conversations with four organisations that withdrew their applications (following discussions with the Council) will continue to explore other opportunities in partnership with the Council (see section 2.13). The overall budget will be kept under review as part of the approach to balancing the budget over the medium-term.
- 6.8. Notional funding will be discussed with the successful applicants at grant agreement stage and will be confirmed by the end of January 2023. There is no guarantee that this will be funded.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The council has legal duties to provide information and advice, in particular under the Care Act 2014 (Part 1 Section 4) and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (Section 2). Furthermore, the council has the power under the Localism Act 2011 (known as the general power of competence) to do anything an individual may do, unless specifically prohibited. This includes the power to make grants and thus the Localism Act 2011

enables the council to provide the funding to cover the strategic themes that have been identified in the report.

- 7.2. In adopting an outcomes-focused commissioned grants approach, care must be taken to ensure that the outcomes identified are not such that a funding agreement is in reality a contract for the provision of services, which would be subject to the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the council's Contract Standing Orders.
- 7.3. Care should also be taken that the giving of a grant does not amount to a subsidy falling under the subsidy control regime. As such the council should ensure that prior to award of grant a declaration is made by the organisation.

8. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. When decisions are made as to which voluntary organisations will continue to be funded and which are not to be funded, regard will need to be had to the public sector equality duties and decision-making will be informed by equality analysis. This is attached at Appendix V.
- 8.2. An initial equality analysis was undertaken for the redesigned programme and was presented to the Collaborative Working Group on 22nd August and the Cabinet on 19th September. This analysis has been reviewed and updated and included at Appendix V.
- 8.3. To mitigate any potential negative impact, we undertook consultation with the sector on the detail contained within the draft prospectus and this consultation was widely publicised. The application period was six weeks, as in previous rounds.
- 8.4. We actively looked at other ways to support smaller groups. We have introduced a dedicated small grants support programme as part of the wider fund, to support and develop Merton's small, volunteer and community led organisations, including diversity-led groups.
- 8.5. We also sought other ways to ensure a level playing field for smaller organisations to apply for the wider fund, such as supporting additional help with bid writing. As a result, the council commissioned Merton Connected to run online Support Webinars targeted in particular at small, volunteer and community led organisations that may not have applied and/or not have been successful in applications for previous Strategic Partner funding, plus 1-2-1 Bid Surgeries offering practical help on writing and preparing a bid. The council also offered 1-2-1 application surgeries for organisations who wished to discuss the application process or had any further questions.
- 8.6. An independent observer was invited to join the funding panel, drawn from the VCS (from an organisation not delivering services in Merton), but had to withdraw due to other commitments.
- 8.7. As part of the addressing inequalities criteria (20% of the overall weighted score), the panel reviewed how the organisation's application met demonstrable needs, helped to deliver the Council's equalities duties, reached priority customer groups and involved service user in design. The

applications for funding received exceeded the funding available for all themes, with the exception of Direct Help for adults in need. The applications for preventative activities far outweighed the funding available. Therefore, an additional panel meeting was convened on the 6th December to review the Equality Analysis alongside the panel's final decisions.

8.8. In summary:

8.9. The range of services recommended for funding will ensure equal access to all members of the community and can be targeted at those people and areas with the highest levels of need.

8.10. Any potential negative impact for voluntary and community sector organisations that have not met, or who were not eligible to reach the more detailed criteria we used to decide who our Strategic Partners will be mitigated through the actions outlined in the attached Equality Analysis Improvement Action Plan.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None specific to this report. The proposals in this report do not have a direct crime and disorder impact, however, they will contribute to an inclusive and cohesive society and improve the resilience of vulnerable residents. Overall, this should have a positive impact on the factors that contribute to crime and disorder and reduce the likelihood of vulnerable residents becoming victims of criminal behaviour.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. Two of the council's key risks relate to equalities and to partnership working. The proposals set out in this report will mitigate risks in relation to both key risks.

11. APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix I – Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector Fund 2023/26 - Panel membership
- Appendix II – Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector Fund 2023/26 - Scoring criteria
- Appendix III – Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector Fund 2023/26 2023/26 - Scoring, commentary and recommended funding
- Appendix IV – Overview of panel recommendations
- Appendix V – Background Information – services currently commissioned 2022/23
- Appendix VI – Equality Analysis

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1 Cabinet report – Merton Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023/26 – commissioning requirements 19/09/2022 - [Final Cabinet report 19 September Civic Pride VCS.pdf \(merton.gov.uk\)](#)
- 2 CMT report - Merton Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023/26 - commissioning requirements 16/08/22
- 3 CMT report - Strategic Partner Programme 2023-2026 12/05/2022
- 4 Key Decision Report - Strategic Partner Programme 2019/22 25/02/2019
<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=714>
- 5 Key Decision Report - Strategic Partner Programme 2019/22 18/12/2018
<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=687>
- 6 Cabinet report – Strategic Partner Programme 2019/22 – commissioning requirements 17/09/2018 -
<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=629>
- 7 Cabinet report – Future Funding of the Strategic Partner Programme – 03/07/2017 -
<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=47>

Appendix I

Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector fund 2023/26 – Panel membership

The grants panel convened on the 29th and 30th November and 6th December 2022 to score the applications against the weighted criteria. The panel was made up of the following membership.

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Heather Begg | Commissioning Officer, Community and Housing, Merton Council |
| Amanda Roberts | Policy, Strategy and Partnerships Officer, Merton Council |
| Barry Causer | Head of Strategic Commissioning, Community and Housing, Merton Council |
| Keith Burns | Interim Assistant Director, Commissioning, Community and Housing, Merton Council |
| Kris Witherington | Consultation and Community Engagement Manager, Merton Council (Healthwatch only) |
| Evereth Willis | Equalities and Community Cohesion Officer, Merton Council |
| Octavia Lamb | Interim Policy and Scrutiny Manager, Corporate Services, Merton Council |
| Gemma Dawson | Deputy Director, Merton Health and Care Together, NHS South West London |

Appendix II

Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector fund 2023/26 – Scoring criteria

| Criteria | Demonstrates | Weighting |
|-------------------------|--|-----------|
| Meets Requirements | Alignment with ways of working set out under each theme in the funding prospectus | 40% |
| Value for Money | Evidence based methodology Outcomes, outputs and Impacts Prevents/Delays public sector costs | 20% |
| Track Record | Delivery / impact Fundraising / income generation Partnership and collaborative working/ constructive relationships | 20% |
| Addressing Inequalities | Meets demonstratable needs Helps deliver LBM equalities duties Reaches priority customer group Involves service users in design | 20% |

The scoring criteria for funding have been identified and weighted below.

Each criteria is to be given a score between 0 – 5 where:

| Score | Meaning | Description |
|-------|-------------|--|
| 0 | Inadequate | There was no response to the question / there is no supporting evidence demonstrated |
| 1 | Poor | There is a significant lack of evidence / it fails to meet the required standard / there are serious shortcomings |
| 2 | Weak | There is a lack of evidence / there are some shortcomings |
| 3 | Acceptable | The response is robust and there is an acceptable level of evidence / any concerns may be of a relatively minor nature |
| 4 | Excellent | A very well-evidenced response / very few if any shortcomings / demonstrates a full understanding of the required standard |
| 5 | Exceptional | Outstandingly well-evidenced / goes above and beyond what is required / very few if any shortcomings |

The minimum score required to be eligible for funding is a 3 in each category, with one score of 2 being acceptable. Any application scoring 0-1 in any criteria will not be eligible for funding.

Appendix III

Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector fund 2023/26 – Scoring, commentary and recommended funding

The funding panels recommend that the Chief Executive approves the funding allocations for each funding pot as set out in the tables below. Please note weighted scores are out of 100.

Theme 1.1 - Emergency Assistance

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Power Centre Church | To build capacity to be better able to assist vulnerable residents living in the deprived area of East Merton through extending foodbank, offering information and advice, refer to other organisations and further train volunteers. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 60 | The panel felt that this proposal demonstrated how it meets key requirements and continues to provide emergency assistance to local people in an area of deprivation. Although a relatively new service, the panel felt that the response to the pandemic and partnership work showed a strong track record. There was limited information on outputs and outcomes and some shortcomings on demonstrating value for money. Some positive partnership and collaborative working provided. The Power Church Centre has worked with local customers to look to widen offer provided. | £65,200.00 | £38,073.00 |
| Commonside Community Development Trust | To provide emergency/crisis support to residents of Pollards Hill. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 4 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 72 | The panel felt that this bid did not meet the required standard for Direct Support for Adults in Need (as specified in the application) although the bid was relevant for Emergency Assistance and was therefore evaluated against this theme. The panel felt that this application provided a robust response to supporting people in crisis, in particular with mental health issues or substance misuse issues. The organisation links well with other relevant services and experienced at working in close partnership with other | £36,927.00 | £36,927.00 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---------|------------|
| | | | providers/partners. The bid included clear outcomes for priority groups and would be able to respond to the individualised need of the residents in a deprived area of the borough. | | |
| Faith in Action - Merton Homelessness Project | To provide support via a drop-in service to people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 56 | The panel felt that this bid did not meet the required standard for Direct Support for Adults in Need (as specified in the application) although the bid was relevant for Emergency Assistance and was therefore evaluated against this theme. However, the weighted scoring fell below the minimum threshold to be eligible for funding under the Emergency Assistance theme and would not be recommended for funding. The panel felt that this application provided a brief summary of the service and demonstrated some outputs but no outcomes detailed and the impact of the service wasn't clear, which meant that it failed to meet some of the required standards and didn't demonstrate value for money. The application requested further funding to stabilise finances in addition to the project itself, which is not in keeping with Civic Pride Grant funding. There was an acceptable level of evidence to demonstrate track record. | £90,000 | No funding |

Theme 1.2 – Direct help to adults 18+ in need

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|------------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Merton Vision (AF1) | Direct outreach support to residents with a visual impairment who are isolated and/or struggling with the cost of living. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 4 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 80 | The panel felt that this service is well evidenced and demonstrates key aims of funding, with clear outputs and outcomes for the customers. Pathways of support demonstrate a good impact and value for money. Good track record of delivering this type of support and working in partnership with key organisations. Good response in terms of addressing inequalities through this service as complexity is increasing and provides a good model for using volunteers. | £30,945.00 | £30,945.00 |
| Inner Strength Network | To enhance prevention activity for women and girls by funding administration, budgeting, monitoring, staff support, room space and training programme to professionals. | Meets Requirements: 1 Value for Money: N/A Track Record: N/A Addressing Inequalities: N/A Weighted Score: N/A | This bid was not fully assessed by the panel as it did not meet the minimum required standards for the direct support theme (or the preventative activities theme) and did not link to the requirements and ways of working in the prospectus. The bid was not relevant for this funding as the proposal did not demonstrate how it would provide direct help to residents with significant needs or provide preventative activities to prevent, reduce and delay the need for health and social care services. | £120,000 | Not eligible |

Theme 2 - Services that grow strengths and capabilities

Services recommended for funding from Adult Social Care budget:

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Age UK Merton | Proposal to put in place an integrated Community Support Service (CSS), bringing together established Information and Advice and Living Well services, to further grow strengths and capabilities for older clients in Merton. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 60 | The panel felt that overall, this was a robust response in terms of alignment with the ways of working but it was not sufficiently clear on the method of approach. A high funding request with comparatively low evidence of output. Clear evidence of track record in Merton and strong partnership working. Targeted approach to addressing inequalities, including working with ethnic minority organisations and specialist disability organisations. Element of bid focused on campaigns and policy work will not be funded through this programme. | £1,557,087.07 | £530,581.20 |
| Merton Centre for Independent Living | Increasing the capacity of the Information and Advice service through an accredited caseworker support for Deaf and Disabled residents in Merton relating to welfare benefits, social care, concessionary travel, housing, grant applications and health. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 72 | The panel felt that that this was a clearly presented proposal which meets the requirements, and the response was well linked with the ways of working for this theme. Clear outputs and outcomes although some concerns about meeting capacity. Well established service in borough but would like to see more partnership or collaborative work with other organisations, particularly those who support deaf and disabled people. Clearly demonstrate how address inequalities, ensuring deaf and disabled people are integral to not just design but operational delivery of services. | £148,248.00 | £148,248.00 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|---------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Merton Mencap (AF1) | Provide a Community Facilitator service which supports adults with learning disabilities and/or autism to live to more independently and achieve positive life-goals. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 64 | The panel felt that while this proposal did not align strongly with the ways of working, it clearly detailed the project and the aims and process and method of approach, which clearly meet the requirements of the funding. Clear outputs and outcomes with progression and individual personal plans evident in approach. Impact of service clearly evident and trusted service to deliver high quality support. Strong partnership approach. Focus on supporting customers in the East and those customers not accessing social care support. Would have liked more info/examples on how to work with ethnic minority groups to tailor support offer. | £68,466.00 | £54,772.80 |
| Merton Vision (AF2) | Expansion of current specialist one to one and counselling service and Benefits and Welfare support services to a new client group (Hard of Hearing/Deaf people). | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 64 | The panel felt the response sets out the principles of the project which clearly meets the requirements of the funding. However, the response is not strongly aligned to the ways of working. Well evidenced demand for expansion of service offer. Clear outputs and a method of measuring outcomes evident. Strong track record of delivering services in community as part of preventative model and evidence of working well with other partners to deliver services. Strong equalities focus, including within recruitment practices. Initiatives to engage service users in design and delivery of services. Counselling element of bid will not be funded through this programme, as not aligned with the theme. | £73,882.00 | £59,105.60 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|-----------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Wimbledon Guild | Provide a preventative, strengths-based Wellbeing Support service, offering a holistic assessment and 1:1 support for vulnerable, isolated older people with limited connections in the community. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 72 | The panel felt that this bid responded strongly to the ways of working with prospectus. Whilst not conventionally part of the tiered level of short-term support, the prospectus states that a level of flexibility can be used and this service fits well with preventative agenda. Will need to ensure capacity within the service to provide support to new customers. Level of volunteer support provides value for money. Clear outputs and outcomes for the service. Strong working relationships with adult social care and social prescribers and other partners working. Good track record of achieving outcomes with residents with additional and complex needs. Actively looking to increase referrals in the East but working with partners, although could be more targeted for key communities. Would like to see an increase in this output of 20% | £148,293.00 | £148,293.00 |

Services recommended for funding from Corporate budget:

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Association for Polish Family | Provide support for the Polish and EE communities in Merton mainly through the provision of information, support, and non-accredited advice, including outreach sessions. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 68 | The panel felt that although this proposal was not strongly aligned with the ways of working, it clearly demonstrates how this service would meet the requirements. Clear outputs and outcomes, building on community capacity. Strong evidence of track record and partnership working. Very well evidenced response to tackling inequalities, demonstrating knowledge of target communities and reach into those communities. Focus on being a user led organisation. | £163,000.00 | £163,000.00 |
| Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth | Provide a range of information, advice, casework and specialist support services to people across the borough relating to social welfare law. Service will include further enhanced Merton Adviceline, and face-to-face information support and advice provision. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 64 | The panel felt that although this proposal was not strongly aligned with the ways of working, it provided a robust response to how this service would meet the requirements. Evidence led focus for proposed changes to funded service. Clearly expressed outputs and outcomes and well considered impacts. Demonstrated a strong track record with high client numbers. Strong partnership approach, taking a leadership role in information and advice in Merton. Robust response to tackling inequalities. Demonstrates very good knowledge of borough and needs of residents. Clear identification of priority groups. | £1,616,504.00 | £1,293,203.20 |
| Commonside Community Development Trust | Provide an enhanced 'Step Forward' programme to provide advice and support to | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: | The panel felt that although this proposal was not strongly aligned with the ways of working, it does meet the requirements of the funding to an acceptable level. Outcomes clearly defined | £98,439.00 | £78,751.20 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | residents in the East Mitcham area. | 3 Weighted Score: 64 | but numbers of households supported and outputs appear low for the level of resource and amount of time spent with families felt long. Would want to see progression to independence. Working with very marginalised residents with complex issues, so fits well with preventative agenda. Very well established service and demonstrates a range of strong partnerships. Reaching key priority groups within existing services and targeted approach to addressing inequalities | | |
| South West London Law Centres | Expansion of current legal casework and representation services in Merton, providing a new Merton-based Housing and Welfare Benefits Caseworker and a Crisis Navigator, based in the community, providing early triage and crisis navigation support. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 68 | The panel felt that although the bid wasn't clearly aligned to the ways of working, the response clearly details the role of the two workers and how they will operate and robustly addresses the requirements for this theme. Clearly evidenced why the service needs to be restructured in this way. Well-articulated and robust outcomes and outputs and clear impact measures. Case studies really demonstrated positive impact of services provided. Well established presence in Merton and bid clearly demonstrates effective partnership approach to services, by joining up support offer. Strong response to how addressing inequalities with good practical examples. Clear outreach focus for proposed services. | £228,724.00 | £228,724.00 |
| Springfield Advice and Law Centre | Provide a legal advice service for mental health services users, offering advice and casework | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: | The panel felt that although the bid wasn't clearly aligned to the ways of working, this was a well considered response to meeting the requirements. Well-articulated and robust | £190,300.00 | £190,300.00 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <p>representation in debt and welfare benefit matters, including expanded advice outreach sessions.</p> | <p>4 Weighted Score: 68</p> | <p>outcomes and outputs. Clear justification for continued funding of service and evidence of demand. Well established presence in Merton and strong track record of information, advice and legal casework and good evidence of local partnerships and collaborations including with healthcare professionals. Comprehensive, detailed impacts. Strong policy and practical approach around equality and diversity. Reaching priority mental health group for comprehensive offer of tiered level of support. Clear targeting of outreach to areas of greatest need. Good examples of involving service users in design and decision making of the service.</p> | | |

Not recommended for funding:

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alzheimer's Society | To provide a Community Development Worker to lead on work with people from ethnic minority backgrounds who are living with or affected by dementia or experiencing memory difficulties across Merton. | Meets Requirements: 1 Value for Money: N/A Track Record: N/A Addressing Inequalities: N/A Weighted Score: N/A | This bid was not fully assessed by the panel as it did not meet the minimum required standards for the Services that Provide Strengths and Capabilities theme and did not link to the requirements and ways of working in the prospectus. Specifically, it did not link to the tiered model of information, advice and support, including support for adults with the aim to prevent, reduce and delay the need for social care services. | £153,494.00 | Not eligible |
| Home-Start Merton | Provide support to parents to help promote positive parenting through 1:1 home visiting support, extended family support group service and counselling service. | Meets Requirements: 1 Value for Money: N/A Track Record: N/A Addressing Inequalities: N/A Weighted Score: N/A | This bid was not fully assessed by the panel as it did not meet the minimum required standards for the Services that Provide Strengths and Capabilities theme and did not link to the requirements and ways of working in the prospectus. Specifically, it did not link to the tiered model of information, advice and support, including support for adults with the aim to prevent, reduce and delay the need for social care services. | £58,980.00 | Not eligible |
| South London Refugee Association | Provide an advice and casework service for refugees, asylum seekers and other vulnerable migrants in Merton. Caseworker to provide advice around issues including immigration, welfare benefits, training and health. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 56 | The panel felt that although there was some alignment with the ways of working, the bid did not sufficiently detail how this met the requirements and it was not clear how this links to the preventative agenda. Lack of evidence of need for this service. No sufficient detail about method and approach of support. Outputs were acceptable, but outcomes were extremely broad and not clear how they would be measured. Clear history of service delivery in Merton and some evidence of continuing | £134,259.59 | No funding |

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|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | referrals and partnerships, including longstanding work with children's services. Would be beneficial to know how service would fit in with the wider community response and other partners. Broad high-level response around equalities, which did not include any examples or case studies of how the service would address inequalities in Merton. The panel felt that although this was a good bid, the weighted scoring fell below the minimum threshold to be eligible for funding under this theme and would not be recommended for funding. | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|

Theme 3.1 - Preventative activities for adults 18+ in need

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|---|
| Accoutre Centre for Learning | To provide 'Keeping yourself healthy' lessons, assemblies and round table discussions to children and young people. | Meets Requirements: 1 Value for Money: N/A Track Record: N/A Addressing Inequalities: N/A Weighted Score: N/A | This bid was not fully assessed by the panel as it did not meet the minimum required standards for the preventative activities theme (or the Healthwatch theme). The bid is not relevant for this funding as the proposal is to support children and young people and this funding is specifically for adults in need. | £30,000 | Not eligible |
| AFC Wimbledon Foundation | To employ a health activator and sports coaches to deliver sporting activities across the borough for older and more vulnerable adults and carers. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 76 | The panel felt that this bid was well evidenced response to providing prevention activity across life course and expanding delivery across satellite sessions in East of Borough. This application aligns well with the ways of working and provides a straightforward response to measuring outputs and outcomes. Links well to the Council ambition of being a borough of sport. Strong track record of partnership working, particularly in the pandemic. | £211,150.00 | £0 Please refer to 2.13 in Decision Report |
| Age UK Merton (AF1) | To expand preventative activities for older people targeting older men and residents from ethnic minorities and other marginalised communities to attend. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 72 | The panel felt that this bid was well evidenced application which meets key requirements and details a plan for expansion of services, with a focus on key target areas, demonstrating a clear understanding of prospectus ways of working. The panel felt that there could have been a bit more detail on how priority groups were going to be targeted. Strong track record and wide offer of support for older people. | £314,029.41 | £0 Please refer to 2.13 in Decision Report |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Attic Theatre Company | To provide two weekly singing groups and in addition a dance and movement workshop for people with Dementia and their carers. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 68 | The panel felt that the bid provided a clear response to meeting the prospectus requirements and demonstrated that the activity is not just about singing but includes a social and physical aspect too for vulnerable residents. Therefore, the bid demonstrates an understanding of the priority groups for this funding and has evidenced strong collaborative working, especially with Alzheimer's Society. | £38,514.00 | £38,514.00 |
| Commonside Community Development Trust (AF1) | To provide a drop-in community café, a range of activities for older and vulnerable residents in Pollards Hill and a hot two-course meal Monday to Friday. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 68 | The panel felt that this bid, although not fully aligned with the ways of working, clearly outlined how ways of working will be achieved with good examples of measuring outputs and some outcomes with an impressive list of impacts to demonstrate value for money. The bid provided a robust response to partnership working and are clearly well connected with local community with a great understanding of local need. The bid provided strong evidence of need, involving service users in design and supporting range of priority groups. | £142,574.00 | £142,574.00 |
| Friends In Helier | To provide a range of activities, outreach support and outings for older people to socialise, join in with activities and eat a hot meal together. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 60 | The panel felt that this bid provided sound outputs, outcomes and good impact case studies, although there are some concerns and shortcomings in terms of sustainability and value for money. The organisation has a strong track record and very well connected in Morden area. The panel felt the need to bolster online presence. Provides support to a wide | £178,000.00 | £150,410.00 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|---|--|---|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | remit of older adults and not very targeted, particularly for ethnic minorities but some sound ideas of how to address inequalities in the future. | | |
| Jigsaw4u | To provide a tenancy support service to work with 18-25 year old young people who are in the process of leaving the care system. | Meets Requirements: 1 Value for Money: N/A Track Record: N/A Addressing Inequalities: N/A Weighted Score: N/A | This bid was not fully assessed by the panel as it did not meet the minimum required standards for the preventative activities theme. This service is not eligible for preventative services funding as the statutory responsibility for care leavers would sit with Children's Schools and Families Department, and not with Adult Social Care, who fund preventative activities in the Civic Pride Fund. | £132,107.00 | Not eligible |
| The Merton and Morden Guild of Social Service | To provide 16 (growing to 20) preventative activities per week for older people in Merton. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 60 | The panel felt that the bid provided a summary of individualised service user led activities for older people, especially with higher needs both building, and community based. The panel felt that the bid provided an acceptable level of detail to demonstrate a strong track record of support in local area and how they work well in partnership with key organisations to provide a broad range of services and support. The panel liked the long-standing intergenerational work and strong links with other ethnic minority groups, however more detail and case studies could be added to this information. | £144,500.00 | £122,102.50 |
| Merton Community Transport | To provide an excursion club (two trips per month) supporting members of | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: | The panel felt that overall, the bid provided a summary of the offer and met key requirements and some information on | £52,031.03 | £43,966.22 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | the community struggling with loneliness and isolation to places of interest. | 3 Weighted Score: 60 | outputs but could have detailed more in the way of outcomes for attendees. Good track record of support and partnership working with other organisations. Evidenced how they provide support to people who would otherwise not choose or be able to go out, good case study on effectiveness of service. Could be a limited amount of people using the service if the same people attended each trip, so would need to demonstrate how more people could access service and therefore demonstrate value for money. | | |
| Ethnic Minority Centre Ltd | To provide three activities to BAME communities including swimming (and lunch afterwards), massage and knitting | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 2 Weighted Score: 52 | The panel felt that although this was a sound bid, the weighted scoring fell below the minimum threshold to be eligible for funding under this theme and would not be recommended for funding. Whilst projects are in keeping with preventative activity aims, the panel felt that there was limited information on how will meet ways of working and outputs and outcomes were not targeted enough for people at risk of needing health and social care services. Therefore, the bid did not demonstrate value for money. Although very strong in meeting the needs of ethnic minority groups and a good track record there was no other mention of priority customer groups, as sessions would be open to all, so too broad for this funding. | £49,989.00 | No funding |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|---------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Merton Mencap | My Life My Community Saturday Hub for adults with a learning disability and/or Autism. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 72 | The panel felt that this bid provided a very well evidenced response to how this service would meet the ways of working within prospectus. A very good response to how outcomes relating to health, independence and digital access will be met. Strong track record of delivering services to PLD and clearly demonstrates how attract additional funding. The panel felt that the service could be quite limited as only supporting 30 people, so will need to evidence how people will be supported to move on. If committed to tackling inequalities, could consider some sessions being held in the East. | £68,520.00 | £68,520.00 |
| Merton Mencap (AF2) | My Life My Community Independent Travel Training service to support adults over the age of 25 with a learning disability and/or Autism to become safe, independent travellers. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 72 | The panel felt that even though the bid did not specify how meets ways of working, can clearly demonstrate that this preventative service reduces the need for social care services if outcomes are achieved. Clearly evidenced outputs and outcomes but would have liked to have seen more person centred outcomes in the difference the service could make to someone's life. Good track record of attracting additional funding. Very limited service for 10-12 people, but value for money could be significant. Good response in terms of presence in the East of the Borough but limited in targeting specific communities. | £56,706.00 | £0 Please refer to 2.13 in Decision Report |
| Merton Mencap (AF3) | My Life My Community Friendship Club for | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 | The panel felt that this bid clearly demonstrates how this service will meet ways | £48,300.00 | £0 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|---------------------|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| | adults with high-functioning Autism called Aces 2. | Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 72 | of working, although unclear whether this service fits within the aims of preventative services as limited information on impact. Good track record of attracting additional funding. Very limited service with limited reach, although has been identified as a gap by carers. | | Please refer to 2.13 in Decision Report |
| Merton Mencap (AF4) | My Life My Community Merton Sings inclusive community choir for people with a learning disability and/or Autism living in Merton. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 64 | The panel felt that the bid provided a sound response to demonstrating ways of working and shows outputs and outcomes, although may not present value for money. The panel felt this whilst this could be a valued service, it wasn't clear how this would be an inclusive community choir. A well evidenced response to track record and attracting other funding and partnership working. Good research to evidence impact for this type of service. Will be held in East of the Borough, although minor concern that not enough info on Ethnic Minority groups and how they will engage with this type of service. | £41,865.00 | £0 Please refer to 2.13 in Decision Report |
| Merton Vision | A range of support and activities based at the Merton Vision community centre, including volunteer support, preventative activities, building travel confidence, communication support, | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 60 | Although not clearly linked with the ways of working, the panel felt that this holistic service for people with a visual impairment and those who have a hearing impairment provides multiple preventative opportunities to prevent, reduce and delay the need for adult social care. Good track record, able to attract additional funding, and work well with other organisations. Sound response to impact of | £182,664.00 | £154,351.08 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|--|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | low vision and lighting advice and social interaction. | | the services and will address inequalities by supporting vulnerable priority groups with preventative services. | | |
| North East Mitcham Community Association | To provide a range of activities for older people which includes a lunch club, falls prevention group, breakfast club and fish and chips lunch club. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 60 | The panel felt that there was a limited response to ways of working, but the bid does provide a brief summary of the four different services supporting older adults in need. The bid provided a good narrative on impact and demonstrates value for money. A sound track-record and well connected with local community. | £16,083.87 | £13,590.87 |
| South Mitcham Community Association | Employ a community engagement officer to develop a range of activities to adults 18-65 who suffer from multiple indices of deprivation that impact on mental health and well-being. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 56 | The panel felt that although this was a sound bid, the weighted scoring fell below the minimum threshold to be eligible for funding under this theme and would not be recommended for funding. The panel felt that the bid provided a lot of detail about community development and more general preventative activities with a focus on working-age men but was not focused enough on meeting the needs of priority groups to prevent, reduce and delay the need for health and social care services. Project plan has some outputs but doesn't identify personal outcomes for participants of service and therefore doesn't demonstrate value for money. Good track record of support and current services support community well | £122,938.00 | No funding |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| | | | and demonstrated able to attract other funding for projects. | | |
| Unique Talent CIC | To provide a peer professional out of hours telephone service, 1-1 holistic support and group work programme for predominantly the BAME community in mainly the East of the Borough. | Meets Requirements: 2 Value for Money: 2 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 2 Weighted Score: 44 | The panel felt that although this was a good bid, the weighted scoring fell below the minimum threshold to be eligible for funding under this theme and would not be recommended for funding. The panel felt that it was unclear what the preventative activities were being proposed or who the customers were and therefore didn't meet requirements or demonstrate value for money. The organisation evidenced a good track record of partnership working, bringing in funds and delivery. Provide good support to people from ethnic minority backgrounds but no mention of supporting other priority groups. | £370,740.00 | No funding |
| Wimbledon Guild (AF1) | To employ a male outreach worker to develop a range of activity and volunteering options for older male residents 50+ at risk of frailty and isolation. | Meets Requirements: 4 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 4 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 76 | The panel felt that even though the bid was not linked specifically to the ways of working, it provides a good overview and includes aims of the preventative service. The bid demonstrated clear outputs and outcomes for customers and good response to service impact. Able to generate additional income and strong partnership approach to delivering services. This service addresses inequalities and reflects a gap in service and have detailed good examples of how to target to those most in need. | £102,696.00 | £0 Please refer to 2.13 in Decision Report |

Theme 3.2 – Healthwatch Merton

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|------------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Merton Connected (AF1) | To deliver a Healthwatch Merton service, providing an effective voice for local people in Merton, influencing and shaping Health and Social Care services to meet the needs of children, young people and adults. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 60 | The panel felt that this bid met the requirements for the delivery of a local Healthwatch in Merton. The panel was concerned about the level of detail on achievable outcomes and more information on demonstrating the impact of Healthwatch would have helped clarify the project's value for money. | £375,000.00 | £375,000.00 |

Theme 4.1 - An enabling system and place

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Score | Panel Summary | Funding Amount Requested 2023-2026 | Funding Amount 2023-2026 |
|------------------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| BAME VOICE | To build the capacity of BAME organisations in Merton, through the provision of good quality advice, specialist training and on-going support. | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 4 Weighted Score: 64 | The panel felt that this bid provided a high-level response to meeting requirements but was not strongly linked to the ways of working and offered limited information on the method of approach. Sound information on outcomes but limited information on outputs, and not fully clear how this bid represents value for money. Strong track record soundly demonstrated. Good evidence of developing partnerships and collaborations with statutory organisations. and collective voice of 10 BAME organisations in Merton but could consider further opportunities to develop other VCS partnerships. Strong equality and diversity policy focus. Included some good examples of reaching priority BAME groups and how to bridge the gap. | £203,962.00 | £203,962.00 |
| Merton Connected | To support, enable and champion the voluntary, community and faith sectors in Merton, through the provision of good quality advice and guidance to VCS organisations; learning and sharing insight to | Meets Requirements: 3 Value for Money: 3 Track Record: 3 Addressing Inequalities: 3 Weighted Score: 60 | The panel felt that while this bid was not clearly linked to all the ways of working in the prospectus, it did clearly demonstrate how the service will meet the requirements. Lack of detail under the inspire and mobilise theme in relation to partnership development, voice and reach. Strong response to outputs, but outcomes and impacts | £807,300.00 | £603,338.00 |

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|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| | improve trust, relationships and the quality of VCS services; investing in community support to create an environment for volunteering to thrive, and: inspiring, mobilising, connecting and growing relationships. | | were less clearly defined. Strong track record of partnership working and taking a leadership role in this. Robustly demonstrate the organisation's commitment to equality and diversity, but the bid was a bit lacking in relevant insights/intelligence. Community Accountant role will not be funded through this programme, | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|

Appendix IV - Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector fund 2022/26 – Overview of panel recommendations

| | | KEY | Successful application | | | |
|-----------|---------|------------|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Unsuccessful application | | | |
| | | | Not eligible for funding | | | |
| | | | Alternative arrangements | | | |
| | Ranking | Weighted % | Organisation | Funding Request | Funding Agreed over 3 years | Funding Agreed per annum |
| Theme 1.1 | 1 | 72 | Commonside Community Development Trust | £36,927.00 | £36,927.00 | £12,309.00 |
| | 2 | 60 | Power Church | £65,200.00 | £38,073.00 | £12,691.00 |
| | 3 | 56 | Faith In Action | £90,000.00 | No funding | |
| | | | Total | £192,127.00 | £75,000.00 | £25,000.00 |
| Theme 1.2 | 1 | 80 | MertonVision | £30,945.00 | £30,945.00 | £10,315.00 |
| | | | Inner Strength Network | £120,000.00 | Not eligible | |
| | | | Total | £150,945.00 | £30,945.00 | £10,315.00 |
| Theme 2 | 1 | 72 | Wimbledon Guild | £148,293.00 | £148,293.00 | £49,431.00 |
| | 1 | 72 | Merton Centre for Independent Living | £148,248.00 | £148,248.00 | £49,416.00 |
| | 2 | 68 | South West London Law Centres | £228,724.00 | £228,724.00 | £76,241.33 |
| | 2 | 68 | Springfield Advice and Law Centre | £190,300.00 | £190,300.00 | £63,433.33 |
| | 2 | 68 | Association for Polish Family | £163,000.00 | £163,000.00 | £54,333.33 |
| | 3 | 64 | Merton Mencap (AF1) | £68,466.00 | £54,772.80 | £18,257.60 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|----|--|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| | 3 | 64 | Merton Vision (AF2) | £73,882.00 | £59,105.60 | £19,701.87 |
| | 3 | 64 | Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth | £1,616,504.00 | £1,293,203.20 | £431,067.73 |
| | 3 | 64 | Commonside Community Development Trust | £98,439.00 | £78,751.20 | £26,250.40 |
| | 4 | 60 | Age UK Merton | £1,557,087.07 | £530,581.20 | £176,860.40 |
| | 3 | 56 | South London Refugee Association | £134,259.59 | No funding | |
| | | | Alzheimer's Society | £153,494.00 | Not eligible | |
| | | | Home-Start Merton | £58,980.00 | Not eligible | |
| | | | Total | £4,639,676.66 | £2,894,979.00 | £964,993.00 |
| | | | | | | |
| Theme 3.1 | 1 | 76 | Wimbledon Guild | £102,696.00 | Alternative arrangements | |
| | 1 | 76 | AFC Wimbledon | £211,150.00 | Alternative arrangements | |
| | 2 | 72 | Merton Mencap | £68,520.00 | £68,520.00 | £22,840.00 |
| | 2 | 72 | Merton Mencap (AF2) | £56,706.00 | Alternative arrangements | |
| | 2 | 72 | Age UK Merton | £314,029.41 | Alternative arrangements | |
| | 2 | 72 | Merton Mencap (AF3) | £48,300.00 | Alternative arrangements | |
| | 3 | 68 | Attic Theatre | £38,514.00 | £38,514.00 | £12,838.00 |
| | 3 | 68 | Commonside Community Development Trust | £142,574.00 | £142,574.00 | £47,524.67 |
| | 4 | 64 | Merton Mencap (AF4) | £41,865.00 | Alternative arrangements | |
| | 5 | 60 | Friends in St Helier | £178,000.00 | £150,410.00 | £50,136.67 |
| | 5 | 60 | Merton and Morden Guild | £144,500.00 | £122,102.50 | £40,700.83 |
| | 5 | 60 | Merton Community Transport | £52,031.03 | £43,966.22 | £14,655.41 |
| | 5 | 60 | MertonVision | £182,664.00 | £154,351.08 | £51,450.36 |
| | 5 | 60 | North East Mitcham Community Association | £16,083.87 | £13,590.87 | £4,530.29 |
| | 6 | 56 | South Mitcham Community Association | £122,938.00 | No funding | |

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|---|----|------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 7 | 52 | Ethnic Minority Centre | £49,989.00 | No funding | |
| | 8 | 44 | Unique Talent | £370,740.00 | No funding | |
| | | | Accoutre Centre for Learning | £30,000.00 | Not eligible | |
| | | | Jigsaw4U | £132,107.00 | Not eligible | |
| | | | Total | £2,296,972.31 | £734,028.67 | £244,676.22 |
| Theme 3.2 | 1 | 60 | Merton Connected | £375,000.00 | £375,000.00 | £125,000.00 |
| | | | Total | £375,000.00 | £375,000.00 | £125,000.00 |
| Theme 4.1 | 1 | 64 | BAME Voice | £203,962.00 | £203,962.00 | £67,987.33 |
| | 2 | 60 | Merton Connected | £807,300.00 | £603,338.00 | £201,112.67 |
| | | | Total | £1,011,262.00 | £807,300.00 | £269,100.00 |

Appendix V - Background Information – services currently commissioned 2022/23

Strategic Partner Programme

The Strategic Partner Grants programme currently funds the voluntary sector to provide information, advice and support services in the community which provide low level preventative interventions that strengthen Merton resident's physical, social, emotional, and economic resilience. The annual cost of the current programme is £1,524,053. The current grants were extended for an additional year (2022/23) at the same annual amount to allow time for the new Civic Pride Fund to be developed.

The current breakdown of funding for Strategic Partners is:

Information and advice provision

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Funding amount 2019-22 |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Citizens Advice Merton & Lambeth | Continue to provide a range of information, advice, casework and specialist support services to people across the borough relating to social welfare law. Additionally provide a Specialist Support Partnership Service and Merton Advice Forum. | £1,065,000 |
| Association for Polish Family | Provide support for the Polish and EE communities in Merton mainly through the provision of information and signposting but also piloted skills development workshops. | £81,000 |
| Commonside Trust | Outreach support provided by South West London Law Centres (SWLLC) to Commonside Trust service users. Provision will include qualified legal advice in the areas of debt and housing. Hosting of specialist adviser from SWLLC three times per month. | £24,300 |
| deafPLUS | Provide a new Merton Deaf Advice Service. Delivery of a two or three day per week Social Welfare Advice Service to Deaf and Hard of Hearing residents of Merton. | £72,000 |
| South West London Law Centres | Provide legal casework and representation services in social welfare law (debt, employment, immigration, asylum, community care, housing and welfare rights) and pro-bono clinics offering legal advice services | £168,000 |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Springfield Advice and Law Centre | Provide a legal advice service for mental health services users, offering advice and casework representation in debt and welfare benefit matters, including advice outreach sessions. | £177,000 |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|

Voluntary sector infrastructure support

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Funding amount 2019-22 |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Merton Connected (formally Merton Voluntary Service Council) | Continue to provide a one stop shop infrastructure, strategic representation and volunteering support service for the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector and volunteers and potential volunteers in Merton. | £525,000 |
| BAME Voice | Continue to provide support and voice for BAME organisations and communities in Merton. Introduction of a new peer mentoring and buddying scheme. | £30,000 |

Wellbeing Services

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Funding amount 2019-22 |
|----------------------|--|------------------------|
| Age UK Merton | Living Well service aims to provide support to older adults in Merton to enable them to continue to live independently. The service supports people to improve their independence, connection, health and wellbeing. | £265,350 |
| Merton Mencap | My Life, My Community-provides the resources that people with a learning disability need to live full lives, connected and mainstream community life. Supported by a facilitator and 2 community hub sessions each week. | £145,707 |
| Imagine Independence | Provide range of services and support in Peer Support, Inclusion and Health Living and Vocational support through 3 tiers: specialist, early intervention and universal. | £360,000 |

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Funding amount 2019-22 |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|
| Wimbledon Guild | Develop 3 new activities: Ongoing emotional and practical support for people 60+ with complex needs, provision of a Sunday Lunch Service and expansion of emotional support groups for bereavement, older adults and continuity of concern for people with complex mental health needs. | £291,000 |
| Merton Vision | Provide support and services to people who are newly visually impaired, to people who have lived with sight loss for some time. Outreach team promote independence to assist reduction in social care dependency. | £164,145 |

Carers Service

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Funding amount 2019-22 |
|---|--|------------------------|
| Carers Support Merton and Merton Mencap | To continue to provide a one stop shop for unpaid Carers in Merton via the Carers Hub. The Hub will use a model of comprehensive, holistic carers support developed by the Carers Trust. | £828,657 |

Healthwatch Merton Service

| Organisation | Summary of Service | Funding amount 2019-22 |
|--|---|------------------------|
| Merton Connected (formally Merton Voluntary Service Council) | To continue to provide a Healthwatch Merton, providing an effective voice for local people in Merton, influencing and shaping Health and Social Care services to meet the needs of children, young people and adults. | £375,000 |

Appendix VI

Draft Equality Analysis



| | |
|---|---|
| What are the proposals being assessed? | Proposals submitted to the Chief Executive on 30 December 2022 regarding the allocation of the Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023-26. |
| Which Department/ Division has the responsibility for this? | Delivery leads: Innovation and Change, Customers, Policy and Improvement Division and Community and Housing, Adult Social Care Division |

| Stage 1: Overview | |
|--|--|
| Name and job title of lead officer | John Dimmer, Interim Head of Corporate Policy and Improvement |
| 1. What are the aims, objectives and desired outcomes of your proposal? (Also explain proposals e.g. reduction/removal of service, deletion of posts, changing criteria etc) | <p>The purpose of this report is to commission services for the Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector 2023-26 with new voluntary and community sector strategic partners funded from April 2023. The specific requirements and objectives are set out in the Civic Pride Fund Supporting the VCS Prospectus 2023-26 agreed by Cabinet on 19 September 2022. We have aligned a range of information, advice and preventative support services into an expanded 'Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector' programme which sits under the umbrella of the Civic Pride Fund, with the aim of ensuring the most targeted use of the council's limited resources and to make it easier for organisations to seek and apply for funding. The Programme comprises four separate elements: Services that provide help; Services that grow strengths and capabilities; Active, supportive communities; An enabling system and place. These themes align with Merton Council's new 'Working Better With Communities' framework.</p> <p>The aims of the new 2023-26 Civic Pride Fund: Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector are to: Invest in and support Merton's local voluntary and community infrastructure; Nurture a strong sense of community and reduce inequalities; Bring together preventative services that provide information, advice and support in the community to strengthen Merton resident's physical, social, emotional, and economic resilience.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>2. How does this contribute to the council's corporate priorities?</p> | <p>Civic Pride is one of the new administration's key priorities for Merton. It has been proposed that all core funding that goes to voluntary sector and the local area should come under the overarching umbrella of a Merton 'Civic Pride Fund' (CPF). This reflects our commitment to putting Civic Pride at the heart of our borough.</p> <p>The Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector programme themes align with Merton Council's new 'Working Better With Communities' framework which was developed and agreed by the council's Corporate Management Team as part of the cross-cutting corporate Transforming How We Work with Communities Project. The themes are specifically focused around areas where people may find help and support in Merton.</p> |
| <p>3. Who will be affected by this proposal? For example who are the external/internal customers, communities, partners, stakeholders, the workforce etc.</p> | <p>Key identified customers: existing and potential voluntary and community sector service providers; existing and potential service users; other internal/external commissioners.</p> <p>A brief summary of each proposal is included in Appendix III. The users of the services covered by the applications for funding include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>Services that provide help;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with a hearing and visual impairment, physical disability and long-term health conditions, level of frailty and people from an ethnic minority background, people with poor mental health, people with substance misuse issues, people in the disadvantaged east of the borough, people with mobility or access issues which could prevent them from leaving the home. <p>Services that grow strengths and capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local residents, including older adults aged 60 plus living with complex health, care and other needs, older men, carers and families, people from ethnic minority communities, people with mobility or access issues which could prevent them from leaving the home, people with a physical disability and/or learning disability and/or Autism, people with long term health conditions, people with poor mental health or substance misuse issues, disadvantaged and vulnerable people in need of general information, advice and support. • Individuals seeking accredited advice, support and casework and specialist and/or legal representation across the various areas of social welfare law, including: deaf and disabled people, people with disabilities, carers, families and individuals in poverty, people with mental health conditions and/or substance misuse issues, older people, people from ethnic minority communities including Eastern Europe. <p>Active, supportive communities: Preventative activities to support:</p> |

- Adults over 18 who have long term health conditions, disabilities, mobility issues, mental health and/or substance misuse issues.
- Older individuals who are isolated and/or lonely, may not engage in physical activities, have long term health conditions, Dementia, mobility issues, mental health issues.
- Adults from ethnic minority communities who are isolated, have long term health conditions, disabilities, hearing or visual impairment, mental health issue.
- Individuals living with visual and/or hearing impairment in the borough.
- Individuals in need of preventative activities living in the East of the Borough
- Carers of adults living in the borough of Merton.
- Adults with any learning disability and/or autism living across Merton, particularly those living at home with their families.

Healthwatch Merton:

- People living or working in Merton who are legally entitled to access publicly funded health or social care services in Merton or anyone who cares for or represents anyone who has access to these services. This includes children and young people and their parents/carers.

An enabling system and place:

Infrastructure Support

- Small and medium sized voluntary and community sector organisations, including organisations representing ethnic minorities, older people, families and young people, disabled, mental health and faith groups and organisations serving communities in the disadvantaged east of the borough.
- BAME organisations and communities, in particular those in the disadvantaged east of the borough.

General:

- Indirect services users may include staff who access these services; departments and partners that refer individuals to these services.
- Statutory and non-statutory partner organisations.

Who will the proposal benefit: It has been identified that the goal of provision under this strand of the Civic Pride Fund should be to develop clients' resilience and enable them to see an improvement in their circumstances.

How the proposal will benefit the council: The redesigned programme aims to ensure more targeted use of the council's limited resources. In the current financial climate, we will be looking to support services that prevent, reduce or delay the need for more expensive interventions.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>4. Is the responsibility shared with another department, authority or organisation? If so, who are the partners and who has overall responsibility?</p> | <p>Responsibility for co-ordinating the funding process sits within Innovation and Change and Adult Social Care, Integrated Care and Public Health. Responsibility for the different themes of the programme also fall across Innovation and Change and Adult Social Care, Integrated Care and Public Health.</p> |
|--|---|

Stage 2: Collecting evidence/ data

5. What evidence have you considered as part of this assessment?

Provide details of the information you have reviewed to determine the impact your proposal would have on the protected characteristics (equality groups).

Evidence gathered:

Listening and engagement work was undertaken as part of the Transforming How We Work With Communities project to help shape the working better with communities framework, which in turn has helped to shape the redesigned funding programme.

The recommissioning process was launched with large online engagement event facilitated by Collaborate CIC on 27 April 2022, which helped to inform the early thinking around the prospectus. This was attended by approximately 50 voluntary and public sector representatives.

A task and finish ‘Collaborative Working Group’ drawn from attendees at the April engagement event was set up, including representatives from across the council, ICB, and voluntary sector. The working group met five times and the meeting was initially chaired between Keith Burns, Interim Assistant Director of Commissioning, Community & Housing and then following agreement by the working group to find an independent chair, the chairing role was taken over by Simon Breeze, Chief Executive of Sutton Community Action. Outputs from the initial workshop helped to inform discussions in this group. Meetings were themed around different elements and feedback from this group helped to shape the draft funding prospectus.

Engagement has also happened via other forums, such as the Community Response Steering Group, Mental Health Forum and Learning Disability Forum.

To support this work, the council also undertook a research review, which looked at the national, regional and local picture. Locally, this included the Your Merton engagement and findings report; Covid-19 Impact reports for people with dementia and their carers, people with a learning disability and their carers, people from black and minority ethnic communities and young people; Merton Connected ‘State of the Sector’ report 2021; outcomes of the Big Conversation for people with a learning disability. Benchmarking with other neighbouring and comparator boroughs was also undertaken as part of this review.

The formal consultation on the draft funding prospectus opened on 21 July and ended on 16 August. A total of five responses were received. Conversations with commissioners within the council and beyond have taken place throughout the process. The early proposals were taken to a commissioner's workshop on 24 May 2022.

Impact of evidence on proposals:

Drawing on the findings from the consultation and research to date, the draft prospectus was designed to ensure that the services which are commissioned will be equally accessible to all members of the community and can be targeted at those people and areas with the highest levels of need.

The Working Better with Communities Framework, which was informed by a range of listening and engagement, provided a structure for this funding programme, which is specifically focused around areas where people may find help and support in Merton. Addressing inequalities was prioritised as an essential part of the approach developed and has been included as part of the 'ways of working' identified under the four funding themes within the prospectus.

The Covid impact reports produced have highlighted existing inequalities, both in terms of the direct impact of infection but also the indirect economic and social impacts. In Merton, there is significant correlation between socio-economic inequalities and geography, with the east of the borough being more deprived than the more affluent west.

We are also aware the VCS are working in partnership to tackle the increasing pressures of the cost of living on Merton residents. In response to this, we have ensured that support for the community infrastructure that provides direct help and emergency assistance has been built into the three-year programme.

The detail of the prospectus has reflected discussions in the Collaborative Working Group and feedback received.

Learning from reports including the State of the Sector Report and the BAME Impact Report has indicated that smaller organisations can struggle to compete with the larger local organisations when applying for funding.

To mitigate this, we have introduced a dedicated small grants support programme as part of the wider fund, to support and develop Merton's small, volunteer and community led organisations, including diversity-led groups. This aims to ensure that a fair and equal system of support is available to Merton's communities to build in opportunities and address challenges around infrastructure and capacity.

To mitigate any potential negative impact, we undertook consultation with the sector on the detail contained within the draft prospectus and this consultation was widely publicised. The application period was six weeks, as in previous rounds. The prospectus was updated in line with the feedback received from the voluntary sector over the consultation period.

No gaps in data have been identified, but the first version of this EA published as part of the 19th September Cabinet report prior to the fund being launched, identified potentially a negative impact for voluntary and community sector organisations that may not be able to meet the more detailed criteria used to decide who our Strategic Partners would be. Mitigating actions included the council commissioning Merton Connected to run online Support Webinars targeted in particular at small, volunteer and community led organisations that who may not have applied and/or not have been successful in applications for previous Strategic Partner funding, plus 1-2-1 Bid Surgeries offering practical help on writing and preparing a bid. The council also offered 1-2-1 application surgeries for organisations who wished to discuss the application process or had any further questions.

An independent observer was invited to join the funding panel, drawn from the VCS (from an organisation not delivering services in Merton). Unfortunately, they had to withdraw from the process in the late stages due to other commitments.

Panel members were asked to assess how well each bid demonstrated that it meets the following four criteria:

1. Meets Requirements
2. Value for Money
3. Track Record
4. Addressing Inequalities

As part of the addressing inequalities criteria (20% of the overall weighted score), the panel reviewed how the organisation's application met demonstrable needs, helped to deliver the Council's equalities duties, reached priority customer groups and involved service user in design. The applications for funding received exceeded the funding available for all themes, with the exception of Direct Help for adults in need. The applications for preventative activities far outweighed the funding available. Therefore, an additional panel meeting was convened on the 6th December to review the Equality Analysis alongside the panel's final decisions.

As this theme had a large number of strong applications, far exceeding the funding available, the panel made the decision to discuss alternative funding arrangements with four organisations. These organisations have agreed to withdraw their funding applications and are in ongoing conversations with the Council to confirm future opportunities. This has enabled a wide a reach as possible for preventative activities, making best use of available funding.

The grant programme was an open process based on a prospectus. That prospectus was designed in consultation with the sector through a task and finish group and workshops. The funds are inevitably limited, and therefore the process was designed to try select those that best met the ways of working set out in the prospectus. The range of projects supported reflect the bids received and their relative merits and qualities. The grants awarded will have a positive impact on those who use those services, but it is not possible to support all of the bids received as this exceeded the funds available by some way.

Stage 3: Assessing impact and analysis

- 6. From the evidence you have considered, what areas of concern have you identified regarding the potential negative and positive impact on one or more protected characteristics (equality groups)?**

| Protected characteristic (equality group) | Tick which applies | | Tick which applies | | Reason Briefly explain what positive or negative impact has been identified |
|--|--------------------|----|---------------------------|----|--|
| | Positive impact | | Potential negative impact | | |
| | Yes | No | Yes | No | |
| Age | ✓ | | ✓ | | <p>Generally, a positive impact identified. Any investment in the four key themes in the Civic Pride Fund will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. There is a broad reach of support for all residents accessing services funded through this programme. In the wider context, a broad reach of support for older people has been achieved in the Preventative Activities.</p> <p>There is a possible negative impact in the strengths and capabilities theme as there were limited organisations looking specifically at tiered level of info, advice and support for families and young people. This will be considered as part of the criteria within the small grants programme and we will review the provision for families with organisations who are receiving funding through theme two of this programme.</p> |
| Disability | ✓ | | | | <p>Generally a positive impact identified through the commissioning of organisations that specifically support people with disabilities (including physical disabilities, hearing and/or visual impairment and learning disability and/or Autism) in the direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities.</p> |
| Gender Reassignment | ✓ | | | | <p>Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. There is a broad reach of support for all residents accessing services funded through this programme including people undergoing gender reassignment.</p> |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | ✓ | | | | <p>Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented</p> |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | as service users. There is a broad reach of support for all residents accessing services funded through this programme. |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | ✓ | | | Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. There is a broad reach of support for all residents accessing services funded through this programme. |
| Race | ✓ | | ✓ | <p>Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. In the wider context, a broad reach of support for people from BAME communities has also been achieved in the Infrastructure Programme and preventative activities programme.</p> <p>There is a possible negative impact as some BAME led organisations' applications have not been successful. It will be the role of BAME Voice and Merton Connected as part of infrastructure support to work in partnership with organisations to explore other funding opportunities.</p> |
| Religion/ belief | ✓ | | | Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. There is a broad reach of support for all residents irrespective of their religion or belief. |
| Sex (Gender) | ✓ | | | Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. There is a broad reach of support for all residents irrespective of their gender. |
| Sexual orientation | ✓ | | | Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. There is a broad reach of support for all residents irrespective of their sexual orientation. |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| Socio-economic status | ✓ | | | | <p>Generally a positive impact identified. Any investment in direct help, growing strengths and capabilities and preventative activities services will have a positive impact on the equality groups who are over-represented as service users. Service users for preventative activities and growing strengths and capabilities services and VCS groups are significantly higher for the east of the borough as users with lower economic status have higher needs and therefore are over-represented in terms of service demand. Services recommended for funding include organisations with a borough wide reach e.g. CAML, Wimbledon Guild, Merton Vision and services which have more of a specific focus in supporting residents from the east of the borough e.g. Commonsides Trust and Power Church Centre.</p> |
|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|

7. If you have identified a negative impact, how do you plan to mitigate it?

The key benefit of the commissioning approach used is that our requirements have been co-produced with the voluntary sector and detailed thought has gone in to designing the key outcomes we want to achieve for Merton residents.

A potential negative impact is therefore that some voluntary and community sector organisations may not be able to meet the more detailed and specific criteria we will use to decide who our Strategic Partners will be. To mitigate this, we have introduced a dedicated small grants support programme as part of the wider fund, to support organisations that may have missed out on funding as their scores were lower than the threshold. This programme will also develop Merton's small, volunteer and community-led organisations, including diversity-led groups.

We will also advertise any other funding opportunities available via the Council's website and work with Merton Connected and BAME Voice to support organisations that missed out on funding, were not eligible for funding or have had a reduction in the funding requested to apply for other opportunities.

Stage 4: Conclusion of the Equality Analysis

8. Which of the following statements best describe the outcome of the EA (Tick one box only)

Please refer to the guidance for carrying out Equality Impact Assessments is available on the intranet for further information about these outcomes and what they mean for your proposal

Outcome 1 – The EA has not identified any potential for discrimination or negative impact and all opportunities to promote equality are being addressed.

Outcome 2 – The EA has identified adjustments to remove negative impact or to better promote equality.

Outcome 3 – The EA has identified some potential for negative impact or some missed opportunities to promote equality and it may not be possible to mitigate this fully.

Outcome 4 – The EA shows actual or potential unlawful discrimination. Stop and rethink your proposals.

Stage 5: Improvement Action Plan

9. Equality Analysis Improvement Action Plan template – Making adjustments for negative impact

This action plan should be completed after the analysis and should outline action(s) to be taken to mitigate the potential negative impact identified (expanding on information provided in Section 7 above).

| Negative impact/ gap in information identified in the Equality Analysis | Action required to mitigate | How will you know this is achieved? e.g. performance measure/ target) | By when | Existing or additional resources? | Lead Officer | Action added to divisional/ team plan? |
|--|---|--|------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Potentially a negative impact for voluntary and community sector organisations that support families that may not be able to meet the more detailed criteria we will use to decide who our Strategic Partners will be. | Specific funding available for smaller VCS organisations as part of the wider funding to be administered by Merton Giving, which can include a criterion for services for families. | A range of organisations submit applications for Merton Giving funding | April 2023 | Existing | John Dimmer | Not required |
| Potentially a negative impact for voluntary and community sector organisations that may not be able to meet the more detailed criteria we will use to decide who our Strategic Partners will be. | We will work with Merton Connected to promote wider funding opportunities. | To be advertised via Merton Connected e-bulletin and other social media channels | Jan 2023 | Existing | John Dimmer | Not required |
| Potentially a negative impact for BAME led voluntary and community sector organisations that may not be able to meet the more detailed criteria we will use to decide who our Strategic Partners will be. | Work with Merton Connected and BAME Voice to provide support to organisations that did not receive funding were not eligible for funding or have had a reduction in the funding to explore other opportunities. | Monitoring reports from Merton Connected and BAME Voice | Oct 2023 | Existing | John Dimmer | Not required |

Note that the full impact of the decision may only be known after the proposals have been implemented; therefore it is important the effective monitoring is in place to assess the impact.

Stage 6: Reporting outcomes

10. Summary of the equality analysis

This section can also be used in your decision making reports (CMT/Cabinet/etc) but you must also attach the assessment to the report, or provide a hyperlink

This Equality Analysis has resulted in an Outcome 2 Assessment

Key impacts:

Positive:

The range of services recommended for funding will ensure equal access to all members of the community and can be targeted at those people and areas with the highest levels of need.

Negative:

- 1) There is potentially a negative impact for voluntary and community sector organisations that have not met, or who were not eligible to reach the more detailed criteria we used to decide who our Strategic Partners will be. Some of these services were smaller and some BAME led organisations that support individuals with a range of protected characteristics. We will work with Merton Connected and BAME Voice to provide support to organisations that did not receive funding, were not eligible for funding or have had a reduction in the funding to explore other opportunities.
- 2) We will work with Merton Connected to promote wider funding opportunities.
- 3) There is a possible negative impact in the strengths and capabilities theme as there were limited organisations looking specifically at tiered level of info, advice and support for families and young people. Specific funding available for smaller VCS organisations as part of the wider funding to be administrated by Merton Giving, which can include a criterion for services for families.
- 4) Some BAME led organisations' applications have not been successful. It will be the role of BAME Voice and Merton Connected as part of infrastructure support to work in partnership with organisations to explore other funding opportunities.

Stage 7: Sign off by Director/ Head of Service

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Assessment completed by | Amanda Roberts, Policy Strategy and Partnerships Officer | Signature: Amanda Roberts | Date: 15/12/22 |
| Improvement action plan signed off by Director/ Head of Service | John Dimmer, Interim Head of Corporate Policy and Improvement | Signature: | Date: |