

EQUALITY SCREENING

Equality Impact Assessment guidance should be considered when completing this form.

POLICY/FUNCTION/ACTIVITY	LEAD OFFICER
Core grant funding	Chantal Noble

A. What is the aim of this policy, function or activity? Why is it needed? What is it hoped to achieve and how will it be ensured it works as intended? Does it affect service users, employees or the wider community?

Four core grants are currently issued by Runnymede Borough Council to local organisations in Runnymede (Voluntary Support North Surrey (VSNS), Runnymede Access Liaison Group (RALG) , Addlestone Community Association (ACC), and Citizens Advice Runnymede and Spelthorne (CARS).

The aim of the core grants is to support the above four organisations with their daily operations, improving their capacity to deliver services for Runnymede residents. The grants increase the sustainability and stability of the delivery of the organisations by contributing towards organisational overheads.

This funding supports the residents of Runnymede in a variety of ways depending on the organisation. For example, the core grant sum enables CARS staff and volunteers to support residents with advice through a range of channels including in-person, face-to-face and via telephone and email. In addition to this, staff conduct up to 50 home visits for those with access challenges which prevent them to visit CARS in-person.

Monitoring forms are returned to Runnymede Borough Council which provide information on the activities that the organisation has undertaken. The monitoring requirements are currently under review, but some organisations will return results for the quarter and others annually. For instance, each quarter, demographic information is provided by CARS which provides a greater insight into the impact that the funding has on the service users (e.g. living area, age, topic of concern).

If funding was not provided, this would likely diminish organisational effectiveness and reduce the organisations' ability to function and address problems in the community.

B. . Is this policy, function or activity relevant to equality? Does the policy, function or activity relate to an area in which there are known inequalities, or where different groups have different needs or experience? Remember, it may be relevant because there are opportunities to promote equality and greater access, not just potential on the basis of adverse impacts or unlawful discrimination. The Protected Characteristics are; Sex, Age, Disability, Race, Religion and Beliefs, Sexual Orientation, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Gender Reassignment, Pregnancy and Maternity.

The organisations operate to support residents in the whole borough. For RALG and CARS in particular, they will be supporting more vulnerable residents.

Runnymede Access Liaison Group (RALG) is an independent group that provides a representative voice for disabled residents, suggesting how the needs of disabled people might be best met within the Borough. RALG advise disabled residents and community groups on how to access services and facilities.

Citizens Advice Runnymede and Spelthorne (CARS) provide advice to residents for a range of topics, whether that be debt, workers rights, energy support etc. Invariably, it is likely that those from disadvantaged groups would access the services and thus it can be inferred that the awarding of the core grant to CARS has a potentially positive impact on equalities in the borough.

If the policy, function or activity is considered to be relevant to equality then a full Equality Impact Assessment may need to be carried out. If the policy function or activity does not engage any protected characteristics then you should complete Part C below. Where Protected Characteristics are engaged, but Full Impact Assessment is not required because measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented that would mitigate the impact on those affected or would provide an opportunity to promote equalities please complete Part C.

C. If the policy, function or activity is not considered to be relevant to equality, what are the reasons for this conclusion? Alternatively, if there it is considered that there is an impact on any Protected Characteristics but that measures are in place or are proposed to be implemented please state those measures and how it/they are expected to have the desired result. What evidence has been used to make this decision? A simple statement of 'no relevance' or 'no data' is not sufficient.

This screening assessment will need to be referred to the Equality Group for challenge before sign-off.

Date completed: 20 February 2023

Sign-off by senior manager: