

To: Cabinet
Date: 15 November 2023
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations 2024/25

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Lucy Pegg, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Ajaz Rehman, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities
Corporate Priority:	Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Thriving Communities Strategy
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 06 November 2023 to consider a report concerning Grant Allocations to Community & Voluntary Organisations 2024/25. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 15 November 2023, recommends that Cabinet notes the implementation of the Oxford Community Impact Fund agreed by Cabinet on 15 December 2021 as part of the strategic grants review; notes the social value and economic impact of the fund; and agrees that the criteria and weighting for assessing Oxford Community Impact Fund grant applications in 2024/2025, as set out in paragraph 5 of the Cabinet report, with the additional requirement for applicants to comply with the safeguarding arrangements specified by the Council. The recommendations state that any such safeguarding requirements are to be determined by the Safeguarding Coordinator in consultation with the Head of Community Services.

2. The Committee would like to thank Councillor Rehman (Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities), Ian Brooke (Head of Community Services) and Paula Redway (Culture and Community Development Manager) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Ajaz Rehman, Cabinet Member for Inclusive Communities introduced the report, noting the increase in forms received by the Council, in response to the simplified forms, and in turn the amount of grants distributed to local groups.
4. The Committee asked a range of questions, including the questions relating to ensuring the funding was continuing to work with the Inclusive Economy Plan, and works with the Council's Safeguarding Policy, along with leverage between each of the community groups.
5. In particular, the Committee wanted to see a further breakdown of funding between the each of the community groups, and how much investment was received across the city.

Recommendation 1: That the Council, within the report includes a breakdown between 'Fully Funded', 'Partially Funded (50%)' and 'lower funding'.

6. The Committee also discussed proportionality of the funding, that safeguarding would continue to be crucial within the inclusive strategy, and to ensure all organisations that received funding would continue to meet the Council's requirements.

Recommendation 2: That the Council, within the report, notes the minimum requirement for organisations that don't work with children, young people or vulnerable adults.

Report author	Jonathan Malton
Job title	Committee and Member Services Manager
Service area or department	Law and Governance
Telephone	01865 529117
e-mail	jmalton@oxford.gov.uk