

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area: Corporate and Community Services

Head of Service: Adam Tape

Lead Officer: Beverley Triggs

Date of Assessment: 21/09/2023

Person responsible for completing the assessment: Beverley Triggs

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Name of policy/function/project/service area to be assessed: Keeping North Devon Connected Grants Policy 2024-2027

Brief description of proposal to be assessed: Go North Devon have requested that North Devon Council set up a new grants policy to distribute their excess funds once the process of dissolving Go North Devon has been completed. Go North Devon have requested that the grant scheme be set up to support older people, or those with mobility issues or disability to match the purpose for which the money was originally secured by Go North Devon.

Proposed implementation date of project/proposal: April 2024

Brief description of the anticipated outcomes of the proposal:

Provision	Current Arrangement	Proposed Arrangement	Comment
To set up a new grants policy to distribute their excess funds once the process of dissolving Go North Devon has been completed. Go North Devon have requested that the grant scheme be set up to support older people, or those with mobility issues or disability to match the purpose for which the money was originally secured by Go North Devon.	No specific grants policy in place to support older people, or those with mobility issues or disability	To set up a new grants policy for the financial years 2024/24, 2025/26 and 2026/27 which would be available to community groups, parish and town councils, clubs, charities, CIC or voluntary groups operating on a not for profit basis whose work/project will benefit older people, those with mobility issues or disability	Click or tap here to enter text.

Impact:

Summarise any positive impacts or benefits, any negative impacts (i.e. potential for discrimination, disadvantage or disproportionate treatment) and any neutral impacts and the evidence you have taken into account to reach this conclusion. Be aware that there may be positive, negative and neutral impacts within each characteristic. (NOTE: please refer to the Equality Strategy for the characteristics) Where an impact is unknown, state so, and identify what steps will be taken to address any gaps in data:

Positive impact on older people, those with mobility issues or disability.

Figures from the Census 2021 state that 25.8% of North Devon's residents are over the age 65 years. 19.6% of North Devon residents have a disability under the Equality Act and their day to day activities are limited a lot or limited a little.

Consideration of Alternatives:

Describe what alternatives have been considered and/or what actions will be taken to remove or minimise any potential negative effect identified above (attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data, reports, etc):

No alternatives have been considered as this grants policy has been produced following the request from Go North Devon to administer such a scheme.

Consultation:

Brief description of any consultation with stakeholders and summarise how it has influenced the proposal. Please attach evidence or provide link to appropriate data or reports:

Census 2021 data. Age Concern Barnstaple and District, Go North Devon and Libraries Unlimited undertook a community survey for people living in Barnstaple and District aged 60+ years between June to August 2022, whereby 154 surveys were completed. 32% were aged 60 to 74 and 68% were aged 75 years and older. 62% felt either a little connected or not at all connected to the community. 31% were not confident to leave the house alone. 66% would like to see an improvement to the quality of life for older people in and around Barnstaple.

Funding Considerations:

Funding to be provided by Go North Devon. Any underspend for 2024/25 and 2025/26 will be rolled on to the next financial year. A separate decision will be taken if there is any underspend remaining at the end of the financial year 2026/27.

Date approved by Head of Service: 21/09/2023

Reporting and Publication:

Equality Impact Assessments will be published on North Devon Council's website.

The completion of an Equality Impact Assessment is an ongoing process. Impacts will be continually reviewed during projects and the decision making process and the Assessment will be updated accordingly and published.

A further assessment will also be undertaken between 6 to 12 months following the implementation of the policy, project, decision or service change has been implemented.

Please also confirm the date on which you will be re-considering the project/report and submitting a further EIA if applicable.

At the end of the project scheme

Monitoring Arrangements:

Briefly describe the monitoring arrangements/systems that will be put in place to monitor the effects of this proposal.

The outcomes and benefits of the funding scheme will be assessed at the end of each financial year and at the end of the project scheme

Date approved by Head of Service: 21/09/2023

Corporate and Community Services Use Only: Date of publication to NDC Website: 17/10/2023

