

# Public Document Pack



## EXECUTIVE DECISION DAY NOTICE

Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Decision Day & Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health  
and Wellbeing Decision Day

**Date and Time** Tuesday, 19th March, 2024 at 2.00 pm

**Place** Remote Decision Day

**Enquiries to** [members.services@hants.gov.uk](mailto:members.services@hants.gov.uk)

Carolyn Williamson FCPFA  
Chief Executive  
The Castle, Winchester SO23 8UJ

## FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This decision day is being held remotely and will be recorded and broadcast live via the County Council's website.

## AGENDA

### Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

#### Deputations

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

#### KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

#### NON KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

#### 1. A SMOKEFREE GENERATION: SMOKING CESSATION AND PREVENTION SERVICES (Pages 3 - 12)

To request approval from the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to spend up to a maximum amount of £23.0m on a new smoking cessation and prevention service over a period of seven years.

### Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing

#### Deputations

To receive any deputations notified under Standing Order 12.

#### KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)

## **NON KEY DECISIONS (NON-EXEMPT/NON-CONFIDENTIAL)**

### **2. ANNUAL CORE INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR ORGANISATIONS (Pages 13 - 24)**

To seek approval for making a grant award to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report as part of the annual core infrastructure grants in support of the voluntary and community sector organisations.

#### **ABOUT THIS AGENDA:**

**On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.**

#### **ABOUT THIS SESSION:**

**The press and public are welcome to observe the public sessions of the decision day via the webcast.**

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
<b>Date:</b>	19 March 2024
<b>Title:</b>	A Smokefree Generation: Smoking cessation and prevention services
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Public Health

**Contact name:** Mohammed Jawad, Consultant in Public Health  
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[Fatima.ndanusa@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Fatima.ndanusa@hants.gov.uk)

### Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to request approval from the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to spend up to a maximum amount of £23.0m on a new smoking cessation and prevention service over a period of seven years, with the purpose of supporting the government plan to create a smokefree generation and make smoking obsolete.

### Recommendation(s)

2. That the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health gives approval to spend up to a maximum amount of £23.0m to procure smoking cessation and prevention services over a period of seven years, commencing April 2025 on a 4+3 year basis.

### Executive Summary

3. This report outlines plans to spend up to maximum amount of £23.0m on smoking cessation and prevention services over seven years considering recent government announcements to create a smokefree generation and make smoking obsolete. This will be funded from the ringfenced public health grant and an additional ringfenced allocation from the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant. The Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant will enable the County Council to expand current evidence-based

interventions to reduce smoking rates, contingent on maintaining existing spend on smoking prevention and cessation.

## **Contextual Information**

4. Public Health currently commissions a smoking cessation and prevention service (Smokefree Hampshire) that supports 3,500 smokers to quit each year.
5. Smoking continues to be the single most preventable cause of ill health and premature death and main driver of health inequalities in Hampshire. Smoking is a major risk factor for many diseases such as lung cancer, respiratory disease (including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) and heart disease. It is also strongly linked with cancers in other organs, including the lip, mouth, throat, bladder, kidney, stomach, liver, and cervix.
6. Smoking is no longer considered a lifestyle choice but a preventable addiction that requires treatment. Effective tobacco control measures can reduce the rates of smoking in the population by preventing uptake in non-smokers and by supporting current smokers to quit. Supporting people to stop smoking directly contributes to improving health and wellbeing. Evidence-based, specialist smoking cessation services are the most effective way to quit.
7. In 2022, it was estimated that 10.5% of the adult residents in Hampshire smoked, ranging from 5.5% in Winchester to 18.4% in Rushmoor. There are also differences in smoking rates by socio-demographic groups, for example rates being higher in routine and manual workers (21.1%) and residents with long term mental ill health (19.6%).
8. Modelling suggests that smoking could cost the Hampshire economy £1.1bn each year, a figure that is broken down into losses in economic productivity (£682m), social care costs (£329m), healthcare costs (£41m) and fire costs (£5m). The Hampshire Tobacco Control Strategy states that 4,522 residents die, and 8,631 residents are admitted to hospital each year because of smoking.
9. In October 2023, the government announced new ringfenced funding to local authorities (the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant), additional to the ringfenced public health grant, as part of their ambition to create a smokefree generation and make smoking obsolete. The County Council's annual allocation of the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant amounts to £1,381,823 from 06 April 2024 through to 05 April 2029, and should be spent on initiatives to support people to quit smoking. Allocations are based on local smoking rates, contingent on maintaining existing spend on smoking, and it is anticipated that allocations would remain similar each year.

## **Current Service**

10. The current commissioned service offers three tiers of support to provide a programme that meets the needs of smokers:
  - Specialist support for those who need it and are ready to quit with specialist support (specialist service).
  - Brief support and a stop smoking medicine for those who want help but do not require specialist support (GP/pharmacy and smoking cessation service).
  - Self-support for those who want to stop but do not want professional support (digital behavioural support via Artificial Intelligence Quit Adviser Bella/support pack).
  
11. Within the current contracted specialist smoking cessation service performance and quality targets are being achieved for most locally specified key performance indicators and information reporting requirements. The current service engages with 3,500 smokers annually, which is twice as many smokers than expected according to national guidance, and the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant allows further service expansion.
  
12. Alongside the commissioned service, Public Health has a range of programmes that includes:
  - A multi-agency Hampshire Tobacco Alliance that brings partners together to align strategic priorities and provide support, resources, and collaborative working to prevent smoking and vaping and treat tobacco dependence. The work of the Alliance is underpinned by the Hampshire Tobacco Control Strategy 2024, which was presented at the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2023.
  - An active programme of work with schools and colleges in Hampshire that supports the establishment of smokefree sites and provides resources to teachers and parents around smoking and vaping.
  - Communication and marketing campaigns that are regularly conducted throughout the year, with many focusing on higher risk groups such as pregnant women and younger people. Local campaigns are designed to amplify national and regional campaigns and work in conjunction with campaigns run by the specialist smoking cessation service.

## **Future Service**

13. The increase in government funding through the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant, alongside the funding from the ringfenced public health grant, would enable the County Council to:

- procure a specialist service to expand our core evidence-based smoking cessation offer.
  - raise awareness of our specialist service through enhanced communications and marketing campaigns to the public.
  - deliver smoking prevention and cessation training for all health, care and wider workforce.
  - use innovative approaches targeted at localities and population groups to drive down smoking rates further.
14. Activity resulting from using the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant would be delivered by the specialist provider and be monitored through existing reporting channels and would include information on the number of smokers setting a quit date and achieving a successful 4 week quit on a quarterly basis.
  15. The emergence of electronic cigarette use among youth is of particular concern and the new procurement enables the provision of continued and additional focus on this area. This includes building on the programme of work with schools and colleges in Hampshire and developing a dedicated service for electronic cigarette cessation among children and young people.
  16. The new procurement also allows for extending the existing programme of work to support smokers to use electronic cigarettes to quit and additionally supporting electronic cigarette users to quit by treating their underlying dependence to nicotine.
  17. The service model would be adaptable to changes in prospective funding allocations, changes in smoking prevalence within Hampshire, changes in technology, and changes in the evidence-base around best practice and effective approaches. Future services would continue to provide the most intensive level of support to groups most at risk of smoking related ill health, including people living in areas of greatest deprivation, routine and manual workers, pregnant women, and those with existing ill health. The service, alongside the County Council, would also be expected to pro-actively market to target demographic groups using insight and market segmentation and provide a user-friendly digital front door as well as other access points to the service.
  18. The procurement of this service enables us to review the current service model, build in improvements to the new contract, and expand the service to meet government ambitions to create a smokefree generation. There remains a large cohort of smokers who do not engage with current services and it is important understand how to reduce barriers to access, engagement and successful quits.

## **Finance**

19. Smoking cessation and prevention services are currently funded through the ringfenced public health grant and would be additionally funded by the ringfenced Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant from April 2025. It is proposed that the maximum spend would be £23.0m over the term of the seven years utilising both these grants.
20. The County Council's annual allocation of the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant amounts to £1.4m per year for five years from 06 April 2024. Allocations are based on local smoking rates, and it is anticipated that allocations would remain similar each year. The County Council's annual allocation of the ringfenced public health grant assigned to smoking amounts to £2.2m per year.
21. The new seven year stop smoking service would financially structure around and account for the five years of committed funding from the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant (e.g. structured as a four year contract with the option of three additional years, primarily with activity-based payment mechanisms).
22. The request for approval to spend up to a maximum amount of £23.0m over a period of seven years includes the estimated effects of inflation that may be applied to future allocations or any change in allocation to the ringfenced public health grant or the Local Stop Smoking Services and Support Grant.

## **Consultation and Equalities**

23. The plans have been informed by the Hampshire Tobacco Alliance, client feedback and ongoing insights work with local residents.
24. There would be a positive impact for people with serious mental health conditions, people during pregnancy and maternity, people living in poverty and those in the most deprived communities across Hampshire. This should help reduce health inequalities. There would be no negative impacts on people with protected characteristics.
25. The service would focus delivery in the most deprived communities across Hampshire where smoking rates are highest. This should help more people to get the benefits from stopping smoking and consequently reduce health inequalities. More people stopping smoking in these areas would further embed a non-smoking culture in communities, resulting in a break in the cycle of smoking across generations, helping to make smoking obsolete.
26. A full Equality Statement can be found in Integral Appendix B

## **Climate Change Impact Assessment**

27. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the initial vulnerability assessment showed that the service is at minimal risk from climate vulnerabilities. However, consideration would be given to ensure that locations of specialist smoking cessation clinics would promote and enable active travel to mitigate carbon risk.

## **Conclusions**

28. The County Council commissions a specialist smoking cessation and prevention service to reduce smoking rates, which serves to improve population health outcomes and reduce health inequalities for Hampshire residents.
29. The Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is requested to approve spend up to a maximum amount of £23.0m on a new smoking cessation and prevention service over a period of seven years.



**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	Yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	Yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u> <a href="#">Previous member decision on specialist Stop Smoking Services commissioning</a>	<u>Date</u> 16 January 2019
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

2.1 A full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed: EIA0560.

2.2 The current tobacco control programs and services are consistent in using the principle of proportionate universalism to address the social gradient in health and associated inequalities by providing the different levels of support required to enable all residents to access tobacco dependence treatment. This is further enhanced by targeting localities and population groups that have higher smoking prevalence.

2.3 The target populations for the specialist smoking cessation services are: routine and manual workers, people diagnosed with mental health conditions pregnant women who smoke, and people living in areas of deprivation.

2.4 The tobacco control programs and services that are evidence based contribute towards improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities across the most vulnerable population groups.

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## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Decision Report

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing
<b>Date:</b>	19 March 2024
<b>Title:</b>	Annual core infrastructure grants to Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Adults' Health and Care

**Contact name:** Sarah Snowdon  
Peter Stokes

**Email:** [Peter.Stokes@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Stokes@hants.gov.uk)

#### **Purpose of this Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for making a grant award to the voluntary and community organisations outlined in this report as part of the annual core infrastructure grants in support of the voluntary and community sector organisations.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

2. That approval be given by the Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing for the following actions:
  - i) To award a grant totalling £350,000 to Community First Wessex for the financial year 2024/25 as part of the Infrastructure Grants programme in support of the Hampshire Councils for Voluntary Service (CVS Network)
  - ii) To award a grant totalling £63,000 to Citizens Advice Hampshire for the financial year 2024/25 as part of the Infrastructure Grants programme in support of the Citizens Advice Network.

#### **Executive Summary**

3. This report seeks to...
  - Set out the background to the grants
  - Set out the reason for the recommendations
  - Consider the finance for the project and the management of outcomes and returns

## Contextual information

### Background

4. The County Council recognises the contribution of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector to delivering its Strategic Plan and outcomes, in particular linked to the outcome of people in Hampshire enjoying being part of strong, inclusive, resilient communities. To support the VCSE sector within Hampshire, the County Council sees a role for effective local infrastructure organisations – for example, in providing advice, building capacity, attracting funding, supporting financial resilience, brokering partnerships and providing a collective voice for the sector.
5. In addition to current specific funding, such as those that have been provided via grant awards to individual organisations through various grant streams, the County Council corporately supports the VCSE sector in Hampshire through infrastructure support funding. Infrastructure support is concerned with but not limited to:
  - identifying needs and facilitating improvement in service provision across the Sector – to promote efficiency and reduce duplication;
  - assisting local organisations to function more effectively – enabling them to successfully meet their charitable objectives and secure sustainability;
  - facilitating effective communication, networking and collaboration amongst local groups and communities, including by promoting and developing voluntary action; and
  - supporting local organisations to influence policies, plans and practices that have an impact on their organisations and beneficiaries and, ensuring there is a strong voice for the Sector.
6. The County Council supports the infrastructure of Hampshire’s VCSE sector through funding to the Hampshire CVS Network. This network comprises eight organisations which cover the whole of the county. Currently Community First is funded by the County Council (for financial year 2023/24) as the single contracted organisation to oversee the infrastructure grant award and associated requirements. Community First then works in close partnership with the other seven CVSs, passing on funding and working with them to achieve specific outcomes set out in the grant agreement.
7. The County Council also retains a longstanding partnership with Citizens Advice Hampshire (CitAH) in a separate Citizens Advice infrastructure grant (also funded through financial year 2023/24). CitAH delivers training and development to paid employees and volunteers across 12 local Citizens Advice offices. It also provides specialist advice lines on employment and welfare, maintains a single point of contact between local Citizens Advice and

wider strategic partners and helps source other funding for Citizens Advice activities in Hampshire.

8. Provision of Infrastructure Grants has taken place over a number of previous financial years with these grants advertised and awarded in line with the current grants process. A voluntary organisation may be considered for grant aid from the County Council only if its services, projects or activities are in compliance with the aims and objectives, priorities and policies of the County Council.
9. Organisations will not normally be eligible for grants where they hold balances of more than one year's running costs. Those organisations receiving recurring funding which hold of more than three months' running costs, and where they cannot demonstrate through their reserves policy that these reserves are justified, may receive a reduced grant. To establish the level of reserves, organisations are required to provide a set of their latest accounts and annual report with their application and before grant payment is made – in the case of organisations with an income of £10,000 or above, these must be independently examined or audited. If organisations have reserves of more than three months, we will apply the reserves policy which is in line with the Charity Commission's policy on these matters.

## **Finance**

10. The grant proposals in this report will commit additional expenditure totalling £413,000 over one financial year (2024/25). Subject to approval of this report the total grants committed for payment will remain within the agreed, 2024/25 annual budget envelope for the Demand Management and Prevention Programme.
11. In recognition of the challenging financial context that the County Council is operating within, the funding suggested in this paper is reduced by £149,990 (26% reduction) on the 2023/24 grant award. Officers have worked with organisations in the past 12 months in order to identify efficiencies to continue to deliver the service despite the inflationary pressures seen in the previous 12 months.
12. The County Council is currently consulting on the adult social care grant schemes. This does not impact on the award of the infrastructure grants for 2024/25.
13. The suggested reduction in spend within this report comes from a reduction in the infrastructure grant in support of the CVS Network. This reduction will affect the extent of the ability of the CVS network to develop new initiatives, but the funding recommended will maintain existing support for the voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations. The infrastructure grant recommendation in support of the Citizens Advice Network remains the same as in 2023/24, acknowledging the role Citizens Advice is playing to support Hampshire residents with current cost of living pressures.

14. Payments will be made in 2 instalments for all grants approved in this report. All Grant Agreements have conditions that enable the County Council to require repayment of the award or any part of it if it remains unspent at the end of the grant period, or if there is a material breach of the grant agreement.

## **Performance**

15. The provision of grants to voluntary and community sector organisations by statutory bodies always presents a degree of risk. Specific risks that statutory bodies are required to manage include voluntary and community organisations accepting funding without providing any activity; organisations not delivering the service as expected; and there being an under spend on the expected activity. This applies to all grants however larger grants represent a potentially higher risk to the County Council.
16. A number of mechanisms have been employed successfully over a number of years to mitigate and alleviate these risks. These include nominating a liaison officer from the County Council whose responsibility is to monitor how the grant is spent, specifying within the grant agreement that the grant is 'restricted' funding for the provision of the specified activity only and phasing the payment of grants over the course of the award duration.
17. Both organisations being suggested for award are longstanding partners of Hampshire County Council and were the recipient of the respective grants in the previous financial year. A good working relationship exists between the liaison officer and the organisation in both instances, and it is envisaged that this will continue in the event of the grants being approved for the next financial year.
18. All organisations awarded a grant sign a declaration stating they accept that grant funding can only be awarded for the given period and no commitment exists from the County Council to continue funding after this time, or in subsequent years.
19. The County Council maintains ongoing, open dialogue with both the Hampshire CVS network and CitAH regarding delivery against the agreed grant purpose documents. Monitoring includes regular monitoring meetings with representative CEOs from the Hampshire CVS Network and the CEO of CitAH with additional reporting requirements outlined below;

## **Hampshire Councils for Voluntary Services Network**

- Reporting will be delivered on a quarterly basis, with updates focussed on the support provided within the sector and outcomes on support previously given.
- Regular meetings will be held with the lead CVS organisation to discuss performance.



- A separate quarterly meeting will be held with the heads of all 8 CVS organisations to discuss sector issues and opportunities and evaluate how the grant is performing in terms of support across the network.

### **Citizens Advice Hampshire**

- Quarterly reporting pack will be delivered outlining performance against a number or pre agree metrics, including but not limited; number of clients supported. and the amount of additional benefits income realised as a result of support given.
- Quarterly meetings to be held to discuss performance against expectations and issues/ opportunities seen.

### **Consultation and Equalities**

20. It is for the Executive Member as decision maker to have due regard to the need to: eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
21. All grants included for consideration in this report represent additional facilities and services for those they serve, and a full Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed to capture the benefits for each group. Given the work the infrastructure organisations do to support organisations that in-turn support residents, the grants recommended for award are expected to have a positive impact on the protected characteristics of age and disability, particularly for those impacted by poverty.

### **Climate Impact Assessment**

22. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
23. A full assessment of climate change vulnerability was not completed as the initial vulnerability assessment showed that the project is at minimal risk from the climate vulnerabilities because the projects delivered will be operated from premises not owned by the County Council.

### **Conclusions**

24. The continued funding of the Core Infrastructure Grants will enable to respective organisations to continue to offer local organisations the support

they need to continue to provide services valuable to residents across Hampshire. The grants proposed in this paper will fund, for an additional year the services outlined and ensure that's local voluntary and community organisations are supported through the increase in cost of living, inflationary pressures and associated increases in demand for their services.

**REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Strategic Plan**

<b>Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:</b>	No
<b>People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:</b>	yes
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:</b>	no
<b>People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:</b>	yes

**Other Significant Links**

<b>Links to previous Member decisions:</b>	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<b>Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives</b>	
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<b>Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents</b>	
<p>The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)</p>	
<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

## **EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

The award of grants to the voluntary and community sector to support people to live long, healthy and happy lives with the maximum possible independence, as part of the demand management and prevention programme and in-line with Adult's Health and Care Strategy 2018. Infrastructure Grants provide direct support to organisations, who in turn support other voluntary and community organisations in delivering services to residents of Hampshire and ensuring a strong voice for the sector.

Grants in this paper:

Core Infrastructure Grants which deliver provision on a county-wide basis, period April 2024 – March 2025. Total Pot: £413,000

**Geographical impact:** Grants in this paper are recommended for award on a county-wide basis.

**Proposed Change:** The funding of the two infrastructure grants proposed in this report for an additional year. This will enable the continuation of services which have been in place for the previous financial year (2023/24)

The Core Infrastructure Grants, whilst funding 2 specific organisations will, through the outcomes envisaged, support a diverse range of organisations across the county in a variety of ways. The Citizens Advice Infrastructure Grant, whilst not only directly supporting the district level Citizens Advice organisations will also directly support those in financial hardship poverty.

The Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) Infrastructure Grant is seeking recommendation to award £350,000, which is reduction of grant of £149,990 from 2023/24. This reduction will affect the extent of the ability of the CVS network to develop new initiatives, but the funding recommended will maintain existing support for the voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations.

As a result of the proposals contained within this Executive Member Decision report we do not anticipate any changes to service provision, rather these are a continuation of existing services provided in the previous financial year.

**Will the proposed project/service change affect people in the protected characteristics groups or any of the other groups for consideration?** No

**Who does this impact assessment cover?:** All

**Has engagement or consultation been carried out?:** Yes

**Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform:**

Both of the grants detailed in this report were awarded in the previous financial year. Engagement undertaken includes but is not limited to, discussions with local organisations throughout the year on the level of support they have seen from the lead organisations, discussions with Adults Health and Care Teams around the value the grants have to the work they undertake and regular monitoring which measures the monetary value to residents that both grants deliver.

**Age Public Impact:** Positive

**Age Staff Impact:** Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year. Whilst this is a continuation of provision, awarding the grants within this paper will enable Citizens Advice and the CVS Network to offer support and advice to new organisations and individuals across the County.

The CVS Network support a diverse range of organisations but many of these support older adults to remain independent and connected to their communities. The continuation of this grant will enable the associated support to continue, with a focus being on supporting older adults organisations with the challenges of

rising costs and inflationary pressures, ensuring they are sustainable and able to continue to operate.

**Disability social impact:** Positive

**Disability staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year. Whilst this is a continuation of provision, awarding the grants within this paper will enable Citizens Advice and the CVS Network to offer support and advice to new organisations and individuals across the County.

Citizens Advice Hampshire and the wider Citizens Advice network work closely with a large number of residents with disabilities, supporting them to get the financial and benefits support they are entitled to. It is anticipated with the rise in the cost of living that there will be an increase in the number of clients with disabilities that the network will supporting in the coming year and the awarding of the grants within this paper will enable that work to continue and scale to meet the demand.

**Sexual orientation public impact:** Neutral

**Sexual orientation staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

**Race social impact:** Neutral

**Race staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

**Religion or belief social impact:** Neutral

**Religion or belief staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

**Gender reassignment public impact:** Neutral

**Gender reassignment staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

**Sex public impact:** Neutral

**Sex staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

**Marriage or civil partnership:** Neutral

**Marriage or civil partnership:** Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

**Pregnancy and maternity public impact:** Neutral

**Pregnancy and maternity staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

**Poverty public impact:** Positive

**Poverty staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment Rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year. Whilst this is a continuation of provision, awarding the grants within this paper will enable Citizens Advice and the CVS Network to offer support and advice to new organisations and individuals across the County.

Citizens Advice Hampshire and the wider Citizens Advice network work closely with residents across the county, supporting them with financial and debt management and access to benefits where they are entitled to them. It is anticipated with the rise in the cost of living that there will be an increase in the number of clients seeking support from the Citizens Advice in the coming year and the grants outlined in this report will support the local Citizens Advice organisations to be able to meet this demand.

**Rurality public impact:** Neutral

**Rurality staff impact:** Neutral

Assessment rationale: The grants recommended for award within this paper represent a continuation of services provided over the previous financial year.

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