

Report to: Executive Member Strategy and
External Relationships

Date: 23 February 2010

Report of: Chief Executive

**Report
No:**

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and Partnerships

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Report Title: **Corporate Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Funding 2011/12**

Non-Confidential

This report does not contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

This report will outline proposals for corporate funding of the voluntary, community and faith sector in 2011/12.

Recommendations:

The Executive Member is asked to approve:

1. The proposed programme as the basis for full consultation with the groups affected and other stakeholders.
2. That, subject to consultation, the Assistant Director works with the groups to develop more detailed proposals and brings back a further report to the next meeting of the Executive Member in March.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

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Summary:

This report demonstrates Bolton Council's ongoing commitment to a thriving voluntary sector. We recognise that the sector is a key partner in the delivery of Bolton's priorities.

The report proposes the establishment of a single corporate programme of funding for the voluntary, community and faith sector. This has been informed by a fundamental review of current activity and funding.

The report also sets out a proposal for how the saving of £100,000 from the voluntary sector agreed by the Executive on the 24 January can be achieved.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As the Executive Member is aware, a vibrant, healthy and effective community, voluntary and faith sector ('voluntary sector') has an important role to play in helping the Council and its partners deliver against a wide range of important priorities. Therefore, in addition to the voluntary sector being a key partner with many front-line services (e.g. young people, community safety, services to older people, environmental issues), the Council has also provided strong corporate support and funding via the Chief Executive's Department.
- 1.2 The Council now needs to find significant savings over the next few years due to reductions in the main revenue funding and the withdrawal of specific grants provided by Government. Indeed, much of the corporate funding provided to the voluntary sector came from grants that now no longer exist. Therefore, the Council has had to undertake a fundamental review of current funding to the voluntary sector, like all other Council activities and services.
- 1.3 This report sets out a proposed high level programme as the basis for consultation which the Executive Member is asked to approve. If approved, we will look to consult with appropriate groups and stakeholders with a view to bringing back more detailed proposals to the Executive Member at the next meeting on the 30 March. In developing the proposals, we will of course be mindful of the requirements within the voluntary sector Compact and ensure we engage fully with individual groups and give adequate notice of any changes in funding or agreements.
- 1.4 This report only deals with the funding that has historically been commissioned or managed corporately by the Chief Executive's Department. Proposals for the voluntary sector within Children's, Adults and Environmental Services are contained within their individual budget proposals. We are working with colleagues from across the Council to make sure we understand the links between the different areas and develop coherent proposals for the voluntary sector.

2 Background

- 2.1 The voluntary sector is an integral part of the wider Bolton Vision Partnership and plays an active role in, helping to shape (e.g. representation on the Vision Steering Group) and deliver (e.g. small grants to grass roots organisations) against a wide range of local priorities.
- 2.2 Over recent years, the Council at a corporate level has used a mix of mainstream and grant funding to support a range of Council and partnership priorities. In simple terms, this funding falls into three categories:
 - **Mainstream** – support to key voluntary sector organisations, work around cohesion and grants to small grass roots organisations.
 - **Area Based Grant Working Neighbourhoods Fund** – three year programme (2008/11) of funding used to support key voluntary and faith infrastructure organisations and a range of projects in the voluntary sector.
 - **Prevent** – three year programme (2008/11) of government funding to support work around community cohesion and prevent.
- 2.3 As Members will be aware, in addition to the reductions in the Council's revenue funding, the Working Neighbourhoods Fund (c£7m) and the Prevent programme (c£240,000) will come to an end on the 31 March 2011 and will not be continued. To give a sense of the impact, the total funding provided to the voluntary sector from the corporately held aspects of these programmes is in the region of **£1.3m**. As can be seen from section 3, the Executive at its meeting on the 24

January has already agreed to build **£550,000** back into the mainstream to ensure we can continue to provide some funding for priority groups and activities.

- 2.4 The withdrawal of these specific grants at the same time as needing to make significant savings in mainstream funding requires us to undertake a full review of the current funding and activities. The intention is to develop a single, mainstream, corporate programme of funding to support priority groups and activities in the voluntary sector.

3 Proposed Programme

- 3.1 Before considering the rationale underpinning the proposed programme, we need to be clear about what funding will provide the basis for the future programme. Firstly, a number of existing mainstream funds will be consolidated into the new programme (see table below). Secondly, as was touched on at 2.3, the proposal is to build a further £550,000 into the mainstream to protect priority activities that were previously funded from specific grants.
- 3.2 The new programme for 2011/12 is now **£1,452,341** which signifies the Council's on-going commitment to the voluntary sector in Bolton. At its meeting on the 24 January, the Executive also agreed to find £100,000 saving from the voluntary sector. A single, corporate programme enables the Council to consider how this saving can be achieved from across the whole programme, minimising the impact on individual groups.

Budgets that will be consolidated into a single corporate programme:

Budget	£
2010/11 Existing mainstream budgets:	
Revenue Funded Organisations – funding to support key voluntary sector organisations across the borough	682,318
Notional Rents – contribution to the rental costs of a number of voluntary sector organisations	79,423
Valuing Diversity Working Party – funding to support priority projects around Valuing Diversity and One Bolton	95,600
Area Forum Small Grants – grants to small groups distributed via Area Forums	45,000
2011/12 Working Neighbourhood Fund Replacement:	
Community Cohesion	300,000
Voluntary Sector	250,000
Total	1,452,341

- 3.3 Recognising the potential impact on individual groups, the Executive at its meeting on the 14 February agreed to the establishment of a one-off local transitional fund of £150,000 to be used on an exception basis to provide transitional support for individual groups.
- 3.4 As this report makes clear, the Council recognises the value of the voluntary sector and the need to make measured decisions so as not to disproportionately impact on the sector overall or individual groups. Therefore, a number of important principles have underpinned the development of this programme:

- The need to analyse strategically the impact and value of activities and groups in the future to ensure the programme adds the greatest value and aligns with the Council's priorities going forward.
- A recognition of the role of the voluntary, community and faith sector in the civic leadership of the borough and the vital contribution to a wide range of Council and partnership priorities.
- Continued financial support for key umbrella or infrastructure organisations that play a vital role in representing and developing a healthy, vibrant and well funded voluntary sector.
- An enduring commitment to community cohesion and integration ensuring we continue to have good community relations and a culture that recognises and celebrates diversity.
- A programme very much guided by the philosophy and approach to savings and efficiencies agreed by the Executive at its meeting on the 22 November 2010.

3.5 These principles have very much informed the detailed proposals in the programme, namely:

- Despite the withdrawal of grant funding from government, we have looked to provide a degree of protection to priority groups and activity, where this aligns with the Council's priorities.
- To offer a degree of protection to voluntary groups and projects that have historically been mainstream funded where this fits with future priorities, by applying a cash freeze to the 2010/11 budget.
- To ensure that a 'small grants pot' is maintained providing essential funding and support for the many hundreds of small groups across the borough that very often provide support to some of the boroughs most vulnerable people. This is seen as a key priority by representatives of the voluntary sector,

3.6 The proposed programme and what this would mean for individual groups is shown at **Appendix 1**. As per the principles outlined above, for those groups that have historically been mainstream funded the proposal is in essence to stand still for 2011/12 which in the current financial climate we believe is a very positive proposal. For those groups that have historically been grant funded, whilst they will see some reduction, we have tried to minimise this as best we can in very difficult circumstances.

3.7 Just to touch on the situation for a number of specific groups. Firstly, **Bolton CVS**, the key umbrella organisation for the voluntary sector in Bolton. Bolton CVS were commissioned to undertake a number of projects from the Working Neighbourhood fund. In view of their important role, the proposal is to protect their core mainstream funding of c£197,000 and provide some additional funding to provide a total package of £250,000. This still represents a 54% reduction and we will continue to work with them to manage the transition and agree a new set of priorities and activities.

3.8 Secondly, the **Bolton Council of Mosques (BcoM)** who play an essential role in representing and leading the Muslim community and delivering a range of projects that support the Council's priorities. BCoM have received both Working Neighbourhood Fund and led the Prevent programme on behalf of the partnership. To ensure we can continue supporting priority activities, the proposal is to provide funding of £140,000 to BCoM which represents a 52% reduction.

3.9 **Bolton FM**, Bolton's community radio station has been live now for some three years and currently receives over £37,000. The proposal is to provide the station with £20,000 on-going

commitment to help ensure their sustainability and also provide £10,000 from the transitional fund as a one-off to help manage the transition effectively.

- 3.10 In terms of the **Bolton Equalities Centre (BEC)** as was reported to the Executive Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Regulation on the 30 March 2010, the group's future has been uncertain due to the withdrawal of core funding and support for local equality councils by the Commission for Racial Equality. Whilst recognising the valuable work of BEC historically, the Council now believes that we need to fundamentally rethink how issues around equalities and cohesion are best dealt with at a local level. The Council's proposal is to withdraw the on-going financial support to BEC at 31 March 2010 for the following reasons:
- With the need to make significant financial savings, the Council needs to review all activity to consider whether it is still a priority and can be delivered in a more efficient and effective way.
 - The Council has fully integrated issues around equalities and cohesion into its culture and core business and doesn't now need to invest in a separate equalities organisation.
 - The Council believes that there are other local organisations (e.g. CVS, Hindu Forum, Church Leaders, BCoM) that are better placed to advise and challenge the Council on issues around equalities and cohesion. Hence the proposal to continue investing in and supporting those organisations.
 - There are other local organisations that successfully provide advice and support to individuals and families (e.g. CAB, BRASS, Bolton Solidarity Community Association).
 - Many local council's have already moved away from supporting and investing in separate equality organisations for the reasons outlined above.
- 3.11 Assuming the proposal is approved by the Executive Member following consultation, the Council does recognise the adverse impact on the group and will look to support them as best we can. As with all groups in this situation, there is the potential for one-off short term funding to ease the transition. We'll discuss this and any other support the Council can provide in more detail with the group's leadership.
- 3.12 The programme also includes a proposal to include a **Strategic Commissioning Fund** providing the Council and its partners with some capacity to respond to issues and events around community cohesion or young people (for example, the town centre demonstrations in March 2010). This will be at the Direction of the Executive Member based on a sense of priorities and need.
- 3.13 In terms of achieving **the £100,000 saving from this programme**, it is proposed that this will be comprised of the ongoing saving from the withdrawal of financial support from BEC (c£47,000). It is proposed that the £45,000 allocated to the Area Forum for voluntary sector grants is deleted but as can be seen, from this whole programme will now fund a small grants pot on an on-going basis of £160,000. The remainder will comprise the saving from cash freezing to the previously mainstream funded groups.

4 Way Forward

- 4.1 Assuming the Executive Member approves the proposals set out in this report, then the Council will clearly undertake formal consultation with the groups directly affected and other key stakeholders. We are mindful that even modest reductions can have a major impact on relatively small voluntary and community sector organisations. We will therefore meet formally with each group affected as a matter of priority to discuss the proposals in general and the impact upon them specifically. We will clearly be mindful of the Compact that we are fully committed to but also hope that groups will want to work with us constructively to help find a sensible way though

these difficult circumstances.

- 4.2 Assuming those discussions are constructive, then at the same time we will start to discuss the basis of a future grant agreement including priority activities and outcomes, length of agreements etc. Our intention will be to bring back a more detailed programme at the next meeting of the Executive Member in March.

5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment screening form has been completed for the proposals outlined in this report, and is attached at Appendix 2.
- 5.2 The Equality Impact Assessment looks at the anticipated impacts of the proposal on people from Bolton's diverse communities, and whether any group(s) are likely to be directly or indirectly differentially affected.
- 5.3 At this stage it is not anticipated that the proposals will have a disproportionate impact on any of Bolton's diversity groups. The analysis of equality impact will be tested during consultation, and an updated Equality Impact Assessment will be included with the report setting out the final proposals.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 The Executive Member is asked to approve:
3. The proposed programme as the basis for full consultation with the groups affected and other stakeholders.
 4. That, subject to consultation, the Assistant Director works with the groups to develop more detailed proposals and brings back a further report to the next meeting of the Executive Member in March.

Proposed Corporate Voluntary and Community Sector Programme

Group	Proposed Funding 2011/12	2010/11 (£)	Comment
Bolton Community and Voluntary Services (CVS)	250,000	544,000	<p>Bolton CVS is a vital umbrella organisation for the voluntary and community sector in Bolton. £544,000 was a combination of £197,000 mainstream funding and a number of Working Neighbourhood Funded projects. The proposal is to protect the £197,000 mainstream funding and provide an additional contribution to provide total funding of £250,000.</p> <p>This represents a 54% reduction overall.</p>
Small Grants Pot	160,000	340,000	<p>The proposal is to establish a single small grants pot that will be administered by CVS. The £340,000 for 2010/11 – which is predominately grant funded – is comprised of:</p> <p>£32,000 Vision Grants (reduced from £65,000 in year) £23,000 Brighter Bolton Grants (reduced from £80,000 in year) £85,000 Neighbourhood Management Voluntary Sector Grants £45,000 Area Forum Grants</p> <p>This represents a 52% reduction in the level of small grants available.</p>
Bolton Interfaith Council	30,000	£35,000	<p>Bolton Interfaith Council plays a valuable role in delivering a range of projects that support the Council's priority of community cohesion. The group received £32,000 from the Working Neighbourhood Fund during 2010/11 – which was reduced from £35,000 in year.</p> <p>The proposal is to provide funding of £30,000 in 2011/12. This represents a 9% reduction.</p>
Church Leader's Forum	45,000	£53,000	<p>The Church Leader's Forum provides important leadership for the Christian community and delivers a range of projects to support the Council's work around community cohesion. The group received £53,000 from the Working Neighbourhood Fund during 2010/11, which was reduced from £60,000 in year.</p> <p>The proposal is to provide £45,000 in 2011/12. This represents a 25% reduction.</p>

Hindu Forum	45,000	£53,000	<p>The Hindu Forum provides important leadership for the Hindu community and delivers a range of projects to support the Council's work around community cohesion. The group received £53,000 from the Working Neighbourhood Fund during 2010/11, which was reduced from £60,000 in year.</p> <p>The proposal is to provide £45,000 in 2011/12. This represents a 25% reduction.</p>
The Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM)	140,000	£293,000	<p>The Bolton Council of Mosques provides important leadership for the Muslim community and delivers a range of projects to support the Council's work around community cohesion. The £293,000 funding during 2010/11 comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • c£240,000 – Prevent funding that BCoM led on behalf of the Bolton Community Cohesion Partnership • £53,000 – Working Neighbourhood Fund that was reduced from £60,000 in year <p>The proposal is to provide £140,000 in 2011/12. This represents a 52% reduction.</p>
One Bolton	40,000	n/a	<p>One Bolton and the One Bolton pledge is a programme of events and campaigns developed with the public, private and voluntary sector to promote community cohesion and celebrate diversity. Historically, the Valuing Diversity Working Party budget has funded this activity. The proposal is to build £40,000 into the new programme.</p>
Bolton FM	£20,000 plus £10,000 one-off transitional funding	£37,741	<p>Bolton FM is Bolton's community radio station and also provides volunteering opportunities for local people. It received £37,741 from the Working Neighbourhood Fund during 2011/12. The proposal is to provide £20,000 core funding for 2011/12 in addition to a further £10,000 from the local transitional fund to enable the Council to work with Bolton FM to secure greater commercial income over the next 12 months.</p> <p>This represents a 21% reduction overall.</p>
Bolton Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB)	192,372	192,372	<p>Bolton CAB provides important welfare advice and support for local people. The £192,372 comprises both a grant and rental support. The proposal is to freeze the financial support at the 2010/11 budget.</p>
Octagon Theatre Trust	159,630	159,630	

			The Octagon Theatre Trust manages the Octagon Theatre which is an important part of the cultural town centre offer. The £159,630 comprises both a grant and rental support. The proposal is to freeze the financial support at the 2010/11 budget.
Victim Support and Witness Service	31,145	31,145	This service provides emotional and practical support and information to the victims of crime. The proposal is to freeze the grant at the 2010/11 budget.
Shopmobility	26,973	26,973	Shopmobility provides access to powered scooters and conventional wheelchairs for use within the town centre. The proposal is to freeze the financial support at the 2010/11 budget.
Community Transport and Furniture Service	23,281	23,281	This service provides valuable transport for mainly elderly and disabled passengers and provides furniture to families facing hardship. The proposal is to freeze the financial support at the 2010/11 budget.
Relate	14,953	14,953	Relate provides valuable counselling services to local people with a particular focus on those who are disadvantaged. The proposal is to freeze the financial support at the 2010/11 budget.
Bolton Unemployed Workers and Advice Centre (BUWAC)	12,070	12,070	The Centre provides information, support and guidance to clients who need support around benefits and getting back into work. The proposal is to freeze the financial support at the 2010/11 budget.
Hibbert Community Regeneration Agency Ltd	15,000	15,000	The agency provides capacity building support to local groups and delivers community learning and arts programmes to BME communities in deprived areas. The proposal is to freeze the financial support at the 2010/11 budget.
Bolton Equalities Centre (BEC)	0	45,711	<p>As was reported to the Executive Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Regulation on the 30 March 2010, the future of BEC has been uncertain due to the withdrawal of core funding for local equality councils by the Commission for Racial Equality Council sometime ago.</p> <p>Whilst recognising the valuable work of BEC in the past, the Council now thinks the model of a separate local equalities organisation is no longer the best model. The council proposes that the other key infrastructure organisations are better placed to advise and challenge the council and its partners on issues around equalities and cohesion.</p>

			Therefore, the proposal is to withdraw council funding to BEC but provide one-off support from the transitional fund to help manage the transition.
Age Concern (Age Uk)	19,750	19,750	Age UK provides valuable information, advice and support to older people in the borough, The proposal is to freeze the rental support at the 2010/11 budget.
Highfield Hall	14,250	14,250	Highfield Hall provides a range of community activities from its base in Farnworth. The proposal is to freeze the rental support at the 2010/11 budget.
Bolton Under Fives Forum	17,283	17,283	The forum provides important leadership and support for many voluntary groups who work with young people under 5years of age. The proposal is to freeze the rental support at the 2010/11 budget.
Strategic Commissioning Fund	100,000		Strategic fund to enable the Council and its partners to respond effectively to issues or events that are a priority around community cohesion, young people etc. This fund will potentially be used to provide on-going funding to the Bolton Lads and Girls Club as part of a package of future funding being negotiated by the Club with colleagues from Children's Services.
Total	1,356,707		

Equality Impact Assessment Part 1: Screening Form

Title of report or proposal:
Corporate voluntary, community and faith sector funding 2011/12

Department:	Chief Executive's Department
Section/SIAP unit:	Policy, Performance and Partnerships
Date:	23 February 2011

This report is for decision and is therefore subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The following questions have been completed to ensure that this proposal, procedure or working practice does not discriminate against any particular social group. Details of the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment have also been included in the main body of the report.

Equality Impact Assessment Questions

- 1. Describe in summary the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes:**

The council is committed to supporting a thriving voluntary, community and faith sector ('the voluntary sector') and has a long history of working with partners from this sector to support the delivery of Bolton's priorities. This has been achieved via a mix of funding from mainstream budgets and government grants.

Given the significant financial challenge which the council is facing, and in particular the loss of Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Prevent monies which have previously supported a range of partner activity, it is essential that the council reviews its funding to the voluntary sector to ensure that this is delivering against the most important outcomes in the future.

The report sets out proposals to put in place a single corporate programme of funding for the voluntary sector. It provides an initial breakdown of how this could be distributed, so as to ensure that activity is prioritised in line with the philosophy and approach to savings and efficiencies agreed by the Executive (for example, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable). It also sets out proposals to offer a degree of protection to voluntary groups and projects which are especially important for the delivery of the council's priorities, by applying a cash freeze to their funding for 2011/12.

As with the council as a whole, it is also necessary to make a saving from our voluntary sector funding. The report sets out proposals for saving £100,000 from this funding whilst ensuring that we are still making significant investment within the voluntary sector to deliver against the council's and partnership's priorities.

2. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?

- Partners in the voluntary, community and faith sector (as set out in Appendix 1 to the report) and their staff and service users
- Bolton council
- Organisations who are part of the Bolton Vision Partnership
- Elected Members

3. In summary, what are the anticipated (positive or negative) impacts of the proposal?

The proposal aims to provide a single corporate programme of funding in support of activity delivered by the voluntary sector. It also sets out proposals for saving £100,000 from our voluntary sector funding. While it is clear that some activity will need to change, reduce or stop as a result of this saving, the intention is to work with the relevant partners to ensure that the remaining activity is clearly in line with Bolton's priorities, and is improving outcomes for the people of Bolton.

We understand that even modest funding reductions can have a significant impact on small groups within the voluntary sector. For this reason, a series of mitigating actions have been identified:

- Having a single corporate programme of funding will enable the council to take a comprehensive view of the financial support to the voluntary sector, and ensure that resources continue to be aligned with Bolton's priorities
- Where possible we have looked to offer a degree of protection to priority groups and activities, for example by applying a cash freeze to their funding for 2011/12
- A transitional fund of £150,000 has been identified, to provide modest transitional financial support to individual groups on a one-off basis, in order to help manage the impact of the funding reductions.
- £160,000 will be retained for small grants to grass roots organisations, to support the important work which these groups undertake, often with the most vulnerable members of our community

In addition, the council will retain a focus on promoting good relations and community cohesion, for example via funding for One Bolton activities and a £100,000 strategic commissioning fund which can be used to respond to issues/events around community cohesion and young people..

Informal consultation with relevant organisations has been ongoing for some time, and it will be necessary to consult with the affected partners on the specific proposals in this report, in order to understand the implications of the funding changes on particular activities. This will be analysed in an updated EIA which will be brought forward with the final proposals. At this stage, the anticipated impacts can be summarised as follows:

- We do not anticipate that there will be any direct impact around caring status or marriage and civil partnership.
- Services which are most relevant to improving outcomes for people from the following groups have been offered a degree of protection via a stand-still grant for 2011/12 (i.e. no inflationary growth): disability, gender (including gender reassignment), age, sexuality, socio-economic disadvantage. We therefore do not anticipate a disproportionate impact on these groups

- We recognise that funding reductions are proposed for several faith groups, in particular Bolton Council of Mosques (BCoM), whose funding would be reduced by 52%. This is due in large part to the end of government Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Prevent grants. We will work with the affected organisations to reprioritise activity, but it is inevitable that some activity will change, reduce or stop
- Bolton Equalities Centre (BEC) has previously specialised in advice and guidance around race equality matters, although in recent years this has broadened out to cover equality issues in general. The future of BEC has been uncertain for some time, following the withdrawal of its core funding from the then Commission for Racial Equality some years ago. The council has been working with BEC for a significant period of time, to support the development of its future role and priorities. However, it has become apparent that support and challenge around equality issues is effectively being delivered through a range of other local organisations and it is therefore proposed that council funding for BEC is withdrawn. We do not anticipate that this will have an adverse effect on people from Bolton's various ethnic groups, but we recognise that there is likely to be an adverse effect on BEC as an organisation. It is proposed that BEC is offered one-off support from the transition fund for a period of six months, to help manage this change. This will run to 30 September 2011.
- We are aware that any reductions in funding are likely to have an impact on individual groups, their staff, and their service users. This is particularly the case for CVS and BCoM. The council has been working closely with these groups on an ongoing basis to discuss the possible impact of funding reductions, and will seek to provide support around reprioritisation of activity and, where appropriate, around managing the transition as a result of the funding changes. This will be considered in more detail in the full EIA which will be brought forward following consultation.

4. With regard to the stakeholders identified above and the diversity groups set out below:

	Is there any potential for (positive or negative) differential impact?	Could this lead to adverse impact and if so what?	Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason?	Please detail what measures or changes you will put in place to remedy any identified adverse impact
Race	No	N/A	N/A	Although it has provided advice and guidance across equality issues for all groups, BEC has in the past played a particular role around race equality matters. While it is proposed that funding for BEC is withdrawn, the issues of race equality are effectively being considered and challenged by a range of other organisations within Bolton and we therefore do not expect any adverse impacts on the grounds of race
Religion	Yes	The proposals include a funding reduction for the borough's main faith groups, particularly BCoM, which is a direct result of the loss of grant funding. This will inevitably lead to a reduction of some activities.	In difficult financial circumstances, the council has sought to offer as much protection as possible and practical to faith groups, as well as to other groups which work with vulnerable people in the borough	Work around community cohesion, in which faith groups have a major role to play, will continue to be a priority. Further information on this is provided at the bottom of the table. The council will meet with the affected groups to understand the impact of funding reductions, and to discuss the effective reprioritisation of activity.
Disability	No	N/A	N/A	The organisations which play a particular role in supporting people with a disability (Shopmobility and Community Transport and Furniture Services) have been offered a degree of protection via the proposed funding freeze

Gender (including gender reassignment)	No	N/A	N/A	The organisations which are likely to be of particular relevance to gender (Victim Support and Witness Service; Relate) have been offered a degree of protection via the proposed funding freeze
Age	No	N/A	N/A	The organisations which are of particular relevance to age (Age UK; and the Under Fives Forum) have been offered a degree of protection via the proposed funding freeze
Sexuality	No	N/A	N/A	The organisations which may be of particular relevance to sexuality (Victim Support and Witness Service; Relate) have been offered a degree of protection via the proposed funding freeze
Caring status (including pregnancy & maternity)	No	N/A	N/A	We do not anticipate a direct impact on carers, except where this relates to other issues (around age or disability, for example)
Marriage and civil partnership	No	N/A	N/A	We do not anticipate any direct impact around marriage or civil partnership, except where this relates to other issues (such as gender or sexuality, for example)
Socio-economic	No	N/A	N/A	Services which support people who are socio-economically disadvantaged (such as CAB and BUWAC) have been protected via the proposed funding freeze

<p>Other comments or issues</p>	<p>Promoting community cohesion remains a priority for the council and its partners, and funding has been secured to achieve this e.g. via £40,000 for One Bolton activity which celebrates the diversity of the borough; and via a £100,000 strategic commissioning fund to respond to issues/events around cohesion. This is relevant to all of the diversity groups.</p> <p>While the amount available for small grants will be reduced by a half because of the loss of government grants, £160,000 will be retained for distribution to smaller groups who, we recognise, have an important role to play in delivering positive outcomes for people in the borough. It is proposed that this will be administered by CVS.</p> <p>We recognise that reductions in funding will have an impact on all of the affected groups. This is particularly the case for CVS and BCoM who it is proposed will receive the larger funding reductions. This is a result of the loss of government grant funding, which has previously funded a significant amount of activity delivered by these groups. The council will work with these groups to understand the potential impacts of the funding reductions and, where appropriate, to agree arrangements to manage the transition.</p> <p>As set out in section 3, should the Executive Member agree to the withdrawal of council funding, the council proposes to provide one-off support from the transition fund to BEC for a period of six months, to help the organisation with its interim arrangements.</p>
<p>Please provide a list of the evidence used to inform this EIA, such as the results of consultation, service take-up, service monitoring, surveys, stakeholder comments and complaints where appropriate.</p> <p>If you have undertaken consultation as part of the proposal, the consultation manager will upload it on to the corporate database.</p>	<p>A fundamental review of current activity and funding has been undertaken, and discussions with partners from the voluntary sector are ongoing.</p>

5.a Are there any gaps in your evidence or conclusions that make it difficult for you to quantify the potential adverse impact?

The council has been working informally with appropriate partners from the voluntary sector for some time, in order to develop a well considered response to the financial challenges which we are facing. However, it will be necessary to consult the affected partners and other appropriate stakeholders on the specific proposals within the report.

5.b If so, please explain how you will explore the proposal in greater depth or please explain why no further action is required at this time.

The affected organisations and other relevant stakeholders will be consulted on the specific proposals in the report, in order to help us further to understand and manage the impact of the budget reductions. This consultation will also provide an opportunity to discuss future priorities and the status of specific activities within this context. Final proposals will be brought back to the Executive Member for decision, along with an updated EIA, following consultation.

You may wish to consider undertaking secondary data analysis, further consultation or research or investigating best practice. If you are planning to undertake further consultation or research as a result of this EIA, please contact the Consultation Manager on ext. 1083.

This EIA form and report has been checked and countersigned by the Departmental Equalities Officer before proceeding to Executive Member(s)

Please confirm the outcome of this EIA:

No major impact identified, therefore no major changes required – proceed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adjustments to remove barriers / promote equality (mitigate impact) have been identified – proceed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Continue despite having identified potential for adverse impact/missed opportunities for promoting equality – this requires a strong justification	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop and rethink - the EIA identifies actual or potential unlawful discrimination	<input type="checkbox"/>

Report Officer

Name: Assistant Director, Policy, Performance and Partnerships

Signature: ARD

Date and Contact No: February 2011. Tel: 01204 331001

Departmental Equalities Lead Officer

Name: Sarah Griffiths

Signature: SG

Date and Contact No: February 2011. Tel: 01204 331382
