

## Members' Library Service Request Form

Date of Document	08/04/26
Originator	Eamon John - Head of Communities & Partnerships Simon Davie - Connected Communities Manager
Originator's Ref (if any)	
Document Title	MLR - Funding for Communities 2026-2027

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For Publication
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Additional information:

Authorised By	Eamon John
Designation	Head of Communities & Partnerships
Date	08/04/26

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<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	Members' Library Service
<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	April 22026
<b>BY:</b>	Depute Chief Executive – Children and Communities
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Funding for Communities 2026/27
<b>REPORT STATUS:</b>	Public

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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Members in respect of funding for communities in 2026/27. As per para 10.2 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, the Head of Communities & Partnerships has authority to approve the award of grants to individuals and organisations within the community, in line with the approved budget allocation. This report continues the One Council approach to partnership funding bringing together funding to Community Councils and Area Partnerships, and advising on grant awards to community and partner organisations from partnership funds budgeted for by East Lothian Council in the financial year 2026/27.
- 1.2 The total funding allocated by East Lothian Council to support community organisations in the 2026/27 financial year is £2,782,270 which includes support to area partnerships, community councils and to 3rd sector organisations. This either allows community groups to directly allocate funds or influence their allocation, arising from the cross-service officer recommendations contained within Appendix 1, 2 and 3 of this report.
- 1.3 It should be noted that the funding allocated to community organisations from Children's and Adult Services and from the Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board are presented in separate reports to Members' Library Services, to complete the confirmation of all partnership funding allocated by East Lothian Council in 2026/27.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 The Head of Communities & Partnerships, having reviewed all the applications and funding proposals from partners and services, has determined the funding awards as appended to the report as part of their delegated authority through deciding the level of grants to individuals and organisations (Section 10.2 of the Scheme of Delegation).
- 2.2 The funding recommendations for 2026/27 are as follows:
  - i) Allocation of Community Council Administration Grants, Insurance and Local Priority Scheme budget, totalling £124,270 – which includes a reduction of £8,000 following the Council budget awards of 2026/27 (Appendix 1). This includes a £500 administration and secretariat award for the Association of East Lothian Community Councils.
  - ii) An allocation of One Council Partnership Funding to community groups and organisations totalling £1,389,200 (Appendix 2). This sum includes £380,000 for the contracted welfare advice service delivered by the East Lothian Advice Consortium.
  - iii) Note that the allocated budgets devolved to the six Area Partnerships total £1,215,000 (Appendix 3).
- 2.3 It should be noted that £31,000, will be undertaken to transfer two grant applications to separate Business Units to allow them to manage these funds. Please see 3.11.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The range of activities supported by the voluntary/3rd sector and other community organisations throughout East Lothian make a significant contribution to the vibrancy, health and well-being of East Lothian communities.
- 3.2 The awards as outlined in this report will enable organisations to maintain their commitment to partnership working with the Council to support communities to build resilience and capacity, contributing to the Council vision, objectives and priorities, including Reducing Poverty and Inequality.

### **Community Council Administration Grants**

- 3.3 Community Councils' funding was reduced slightly to reflect Council's budgetary decisions. A total of £124,270 is available to Community Council's to support their activity. This includes £15,770 Admin Grant (which includes a fixed amount of £350 per Community Council and £86

per Community Council towards insurance premiums which each Community Council will agree with their insurer); £108,000 Local Priorities funding (based on a semi fixed amount and a variable amount based on population/ electoral roll); and £500 for administration and secretariat support for the Association of Community Councils. Any difference in payment between 2025/26 and 2026/27 is due to changes in the population/ electoral roll across Community Councils and the above noted reduction in budget allocation. (See Appendix 1)

### **One Council Partnership Funding (OCPF)**

- 3.4 Applications for One Council Partnership Funding grants are evaluated to ensure strategic fit; that grant funding is streamlined, co-ordinated and targeted to support delivery of the East Lothian Council Plan and East Lothian Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plan strategic priorities, in conjunction with supporting delivery of the East Lothian Integration Joint Board's Health & Social Care Strategic Plan and the East Lothian Partnership's Children and Young People's Services Plan.
- 3.5 This year's scoring process was amended from previous years to seek continuous improvement of the evaluation process. All applications were scored, some by multiple teams/organisations, then a consensus meeting took place which involved a range of teams and organisations. Recommendations were then proposed to the Council's Head of Communities and Partnerships.
- 3.6 The overarching intention of partnership funding is to reduce inequalities across East Lothian's communities and population. In addition, the cost-of-living challenges have impacted on many peoples' wellbeing and exacerbated hardship, with community groups and organisations providing vital supports in response.
- 3.7 The One Council Partnership Fund is managed by the Council's Children and Communities Directorate and specifically, by the Connected Communities Team. The Connected Communities Managers provide a direct link for the Area Partnerships, Community Councils and funded organisations in their locality, supporting the development, monitoring and evaluation of local projects and Service Level Agreements.
- 3.8 To assist and encourage all partners in their efforts to secure additional funding support from the 'external' funding market, information has been made available on the Council's website at: <https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210623/funding>. This advice is intended to enable partner community organisations to become more financially resilient and sustainable, and to reduce dependency on Council funding over time, given the known financial pressures facing the Council in the years ahead.
- 3.9 Applicants to the One Council Partnership Fund are also advised to refer to Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL), East Lothian's third sector

interface partner, for advice on funding opportunities and governance arrangements in support of the voluntary and third sector: <https://www.volunteereastlothian.org.uk/>.

- 3.10 Some applicants have been declined One Council Partnership funding as they have received funding from alternative sources, such as the third sectors Community Health and Wellbeing Fund, administered by VCEL.
- 3.11 The 2026/27 budget approved by Council included two allocations of funding which will be transferred from the Connected Communities budget, which includes the One Council Partnership Fund:
- £16,000 award to Edinburgh Rape Crisis centre which will be transferred to Health and Social Care Partnership for management.
  - £15,000 transferred to Sports, Countryside and Leisure within East Lothian Council for the management of the sports awards scheme.
- 3.12 Given the high demand for One Council Partnership funding from applicants that received funding in 2025/26, which could not all be met from the funding available, it was anticipated that demand would again outstrip the funding available. A further level of prioritisation was therefore used when evaluating this year's applications.
- High priority: projects with the closest link to OCPF objectives including reducing poverty.
  - Medium priority: projects with a close link to OCPF objectives.
  - Low priority: relatively low level of linkage to OCPF objectives and/or applicants holds a relatively high level of reserves and/or potential to attract other income or funding.
- 3.13 A scrutiny panel then met, reviewing feedback from a range of Council services and partners, including Volunteer Centre East Lothian who provided additional information on the governance of local applicants. The panel then reviewed each application and made recommendations to the Council Leadership Team under delegated authority.
- 3.14 A full list of awards based on this prioritisation is shown in Appendix 2.
- 3.15 Work will be undertaken with the Council's Communications team to showcase some of the projects supported by One Council Partnership Fund grants.

### **Area Partnership Budget**

- 3.16 Area Partnerships will receive £315,000 in general services funding and are able to influence £600,000 Amenity Services Budget through influence over priority project requests in the deployment of Landscape and Countryside workforce and machinery, and £300,000 Roads Capital

Programme spend through the setting of the Roads priority works programme. (See Appendix 3)

- 3.17 The Roads Service produces a works programme which sets out the planned capital works for both its internal and external workforce. This is based on schemes which have been identified through the needs assessment process and those projects ranked highest are included within the operational programme. The Roads Service will share the works programme with the Connected Communities Managers and Area Partnerships. This will identify the priority projects included in the operational programme as well as those schemes that are not on the priority list but are projects that the service would be looking to undertake in the future.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The allocation of partnership funding as outlined in this report will assist the Council to achieve the aims of the East Lothian Plan (and associated plans), the Integration Joint Board's Health & Social Care Strategic Plan and the Council Plan and further demonstrate the successful partnership working arrangements across the county, to help reduce inequalities and meet Partnership and Council strategic priorities.
- 4.2 With regards to The One Council Partnership Fund, East Lothian Council's financial challenges over the coming years have necessitated a clear focus on increasing the resilience of community organisations, to help them develop sustainable business models and reduce reliance on annual Council funding. The Council has commenced a test of change pilot delivered by VCEL whereby a condition of funding requires all successful applicants to engage with a series of development sessions covering areas such as governance, evidencing need and impact and providing a useful opportunity for networking. As part of this test of change 3rd sector organisations are obtaining an opportunity to influence the process to ensure it best fits their needs, whilst evidencing their sustainability. The review process has been amended this year to introduce additional elements for continuous improvement and scrutiny. Again, this will be tested and reviewed by 3rd sector partners through their engagement with VCEL.

#### **5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Finance: The detailed financial implications have been assessed in conjunction with Corporate Finance and the recommendations contained within this report will be accommodated within the approved Communities 2026/27 service budget.
- 5.2 Human Resources: None
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None

5.4 Risk: None

## 6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 **Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.**

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

**or**

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	Yes
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	Yes
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	Yes
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	Yes
Storage/collection of personal data	Yes
Other	No

This funding will support a wide range of community organisations to help reduce inequalities and build resilience across East Lothian; within this broad objective, priority has been given to awarding grants to organisations with objectives and outcomes which support the East Lothian Partnership and East Lothian Council strategic priorities.

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

[https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality\\_and\\_diversity/12014/integrated\\_impact\\_assessments](https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments)

## 6 APPENDICES

- 7.1 Appendix 1: Support to Community Councils 2026/27
- 7.2 Appendix 2: One Council Partnership Funding 2026/27
- 7.3 Appendix 3: Area partnerships Devolved Budgets 2026/27
- 7.4 Appendix 4: Integrated Impact Assessment 2026/27

## 8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

## 9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

### Report Author(s)

<b>Name</b>	Simon Davie Eamon John
<b>Designation</b>	Connected Communities Manager – Temporary lead for OCPF Head of Communities and Partnerships
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<b>Date</b>	08/04/26

### Head of Service Approval

<b>Name</b>	Eamon John
<b>Designation</b>	Head of Communities and Partnerships
<b>Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed</b>	yes
<b>Approval Date</b>	08/04/26

<b>Appendix 1 - Support to East Lothian Community Councils 2026/27</b>				
Name of Organisation	2026/27 Admin Grant*	2026/27 Local Priorities	2026/27 Grant Awarded	Purpose of Grant
Cockenzie & Port Seton	£812	£5,861	£6,673	Empowering communities
Dunbar	£1,099	£9,440	£10,539	Empowering communities
Dunpender	£646	£3,689	£4,335	Empowering communities
East Lammermuir	£531	£2,097	£2,628	Empowering communities
Garvald & Morham	£469	£878	£1,347	Empowering communities
Gifford	£501	£1,509	£2,010	Empowering communities
Gullane	£838	£6,163	£7,001	Empowering communities
Haddington	£1,230	£11,201	£12,431	Empowering communities
Humbie, E & W Saltoun & Bolton	£515	£1,661	£2,176	Empowering communities
Longniddry	£689	£3,932	£4,621	Empowering communities
Macmerry & Gladsmuir	£550	£2,319	£2,869	Empowering communities
Musselburgh & Inveresk	£1,699	£17,151	£18,850	Empowering communities
North Berwick	£967	£7,911	£8,878	Empowering communities
Ormiston	£601	£2,910	£3,511	Empowering communities
Pencaitland	£581	£2,686	£3,267	Empowering communities
Prestonpans	£1,060	£9,233	£10,293	Empowering communities
Tranent & Elphinstone	£1,214	£11,269	£12,483	Empowering communities
Wallyford	£754	£4,691	£5,445	Empowering communities
West Barns	£478	£1,232	£1,710	Empowering communities
Whitecraig	£537	£2,167	£2,704	Empowering communities
	<b>£15,770</b>	<b>£108,000</b>	<b>£123,770</b>	

\* Insurance premium of £86 per Community Council included in the Admin grant (Column B)

Administration and secretariat support for the AoELCCs		<b>£500</b>
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£124,270</b>

<b>Appendix 2 - One Council Partnership Funding 2026/27</b>						
Name of Organisation	2025/26	2026/27	Area	2026/27	Strategic Priority	
	Awarded	Applied		Awarded		
Acorn Resource Centre	Declined	£55,683	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
Battle of Prestonpans 1745 Heritage Trust	£15,000	£92,000	All of East Lothian	£15,000	Growing Communities & Capacity	
Border Scrapstore	£2,460	£5,200	All of East Lothian	£2,460	Growing Communities & Capacity	
BRIDGES Project	£34,000	£46,679	All of East Lothian	£34,000	Growing Economy, People & Communities	
British Society of Lifestyle Medicine	N/A	£10,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Communities	
Can Do	£26,500	£31,260	All of East Lothian	£26,500	Growing People & Communities	
CAPS Independent Advocacy	Declined	£27,850	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
Care & Repair East Lothian	Declined	£32,477	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Communities	
Changes East Lothian	£12,590	£28,407	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Communities	
Choose Play	N/A	£14,064	All of East Lothian	£14,064	Growing People & Communities	
CIRCLE	N/A	£7,919	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
Coastal Communities Museum Trust	£4,250	£5,000	All of East Lothian	£4,250	Growing Economy, Communities & Capacity	
Cyrenians	N/A	£40,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
East Lothian Foodbank	£35,000	£107,000	All of East Lothian	£60,000	Growing Economy, Communities & Capacity	
East Lothian Friendly Food Network	£25,720	£26,320	All of East Lothian	£25,720	Growing Economy, Communities & Capacity	
East Lothian Indoor bowling Club	withdrawn & reapplied to CIF £4,500	£4,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing Communities & Capacity	
East Lothian Roots & Fruits	£31,500	£35,000	All of East Lothian	£31,500	Growing Communities & Capacity	
East Lothian Swim Team	£2,500	£9,000	All of East Lothian	£2,500	Growing People & Communities	
Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre	£16,000	£24,278	All of East Lothian	£16,000	Growing People	
Enjoy Leisure	N/A	£127,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing Economy, People & Communities	
Forge & Equip	Declined	£9,620	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
Fraser Centre Community Trust	£16,735	£25,802	Fa'side/Tranent	£16,735	Growing Economy, People & Communities	
Friday Friends	£7,125	£10,368	All of East Lothian	£7,125	Growing Economy, People & Communities	
Get Out	Declined	£5,000	Haddington & Lammermuir	Declined	Growing People	
Haddington Bridge Centre	£12,500 Haddington Bridge Centre £24,000 BCMP	£47,266	All of East Lothian	£36,500	Growing People, Capacity & Communities	
Haddington Garden Trust	£500	£14,000	Haddington & Lammermuir	Declined	Growing People, Capacity & Communities	
Headway East Lothian	N/A	£10,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
HerbSpace	£11,500	£20,862	North Berwick & Coastal	£11,500	Growing People, Capacity & Communities	
In-Tandem East Lothian (ITEL)	N/A	£9,380	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
Into Work	£32,324	£52,357	All of East Lothian	£32,324	Growing Economy & People	
Karele	N/A	£10,800	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Capacity	
KRAKOWIAK POLISH CLUB	N/A	£8,600	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Capacity	
Lamp of Lothian	£18,000	£24,000	All of East Lothian	£18,000	Growing Economy & People	
Leuchie House	N/A	£110,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People	
Low impact Living (Lil)	Declined	£17,103	Fa'side/Tranent	£3,400	Growing Economy	
MAMA (Musselburgh Amateur Musical association)	N/A	£28,146	Musselburgh/Wallyford/Whitecraig	Declined	Growing People	
Mindroom	N/A	£94,875	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Capacity	
MYPAS	£12,839	£16,425	All of East Lothian	£12,839	Growing People & Capacity	
New Beginnings Club East Lothian	£5,460	£6,825	All of East Lothian	£6,825	Growing People, Communities & Capacity	
Our community Kitchen	£11,000	£15,000	Haddington & Lammermuir	£15,000	Growing Economy, People, Communities & Capacity	
Pencaitland Day Centre	N/A	£12,183	Fa'side/Tranent	Declined	Growing People & Capacity	
Pennypit Special Needs Youth Club	£12,000	£13,800	All of East Lothian	£2,000	Growing People, Communities & Capacity	

PSG Youth	N/A	£63,767	Preston Seton Gosford	Declined	Growing People, Communities & Capacity
Radio Saltire	N/A	£7,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Communities
RECHARGE	£44,000	72000	Fa'side/Tranent	£28,000	Growing People & Communities
RIDGE (The) SCIO	£78,071 £15,000	£150,000	Dunbar & East Linton	£78,071	Growing Economy, People & Communities
Sporting Memories Foundation Scotland	£7,500	£5,850	All of East Lothian	£5,850	Growing People
St Columbas Hospice	N/A	£30,000	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Capacity
The Alternative	N/A	£35,250	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People
TheSpace Scotland	£24,177	£47,136	All of East Lothian	£24,177	Growing People & Communities
THRIVE East Lothian	Declined	£46,527	Dunbar & East Linton	Declined	Growing People, Communities & Capacity
U3A	£750	£1,700	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People & Communities
Upward Mobility Ltd	£4,915	£18,232	Preston Seton Gosford	Declined	Growing People & Communities
Venturing out	£18,000	£33,200	All of East Lothian	£18,000	Growing People, Communities & Capacity
Wayfinder International (Ocean Vertical)	Ocean Vertical declined	£17,049	All of East Lothian	Declined	Growing People
Autism FA - AKA Tean United programme	Team United £14,697	£17,055	All of East Lothian	£14,697	Growing People, Communities & Capacity
		<b>£1,836,315</b>		<b>563,037</b>	

#### Service Level Agreements and Contract

First Step	£98,000	£92,979	All of East Lothian	£92,979	Growing People & Capacity
Pennypit Community Development Trust	£99,000	£99,000	Fa'side/Tranent & PSG	£99,000	Growing People, Communities & Capacity
DadsWork	£50,000 SLA	£50,000	All of East Lothian	£50,000	Growing People, Communities & Capacity
North Berwick Youth Project	£30,000	£58,800	All of East Lothian	£28,000	Growing Economy, People & Communities
Volunteer Development East Lothian	VCEL £50,000 SLA VDEL £13,500	£179,000	All of East Lothian	£129,000	Growing Communities and Capacity
East Lothian Advice Consortium	£380,000	£380,000	All of East Lothian	£380,000	Growing People, Communities & Capacity
Sport Award Grant	£15,000	£15,000		£15,000	

**SLAs & Contract TOTAL £793,979**

**Approved 2026/27 Total £1,357,016**

<b>Appendix 3 - Area Partnerships Devolved Budgets 2026/27</b>				
Area	General	Roads *	Amenities**	Total
Musselburgh	£90,000	£50,000	£100,000	£240,000
Preston Seton Gosford	£45,000	£50,000	£100,000	£195,000
Haddington & Lammermuir	£45,000	£50,000	£100,000	£195,000
Fa'side	£45,000	£50,000	£100,000	£195,000
Dunbar & East Linton	£45,000	£50,000	£100,000	£195,000
North Berwick Coastal	£45,000	£50,000	£100,000	£195,000
<b>TOTALs</b>	<b>£315,000</b>	<b>£300,000</b>	<b>£600,000</b>	<b>£1,215,000</b>

\* Roads Capital Budget enabling Area Partnerships to influence capital works programme

\* \* Influential spend, agreeing priorities for the deployment of Landscape & Countryside workforce and machinery

# Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability



## Integrated Impact Assessment Form

Promoting Equality, Human Rights and Sustainability

<b>Title of Policy/ Proposal</b>	One Council Partnership Funding 2026/27
<b>Completion Date</b>	02/04/26
<b>Completed by</b>	Head of Communities & Partnerships Connected Communities - Lead officer
<b>Lead officer</b>	Eamon John Simon Davie

### Type of Initiative:

- Policy/Strategy
- Programme/Plan \_\_\_\_\_ New or Proposed
- Project \_\_\_\_\_ Changing/Updated x
- Service  Review or existing
- Function
- Other .....

### 1. Briefly describe the policy/proposal you are assessing.

Set out a clear understanding of the purpose of the policy being developed or reviewed (e.g. objectives, aims) including the context within which it will operate.

This Integrated Impact Assessment relates to the Members Library Service report entitled 'One Council Partnership Funding 2026/27, submitted April 2026.

The report provides details of East Lothian Council funding awarded for 2026/27 to community organisations including Community Councils, Area Partnerships and grants to community groups.

## 2. What will change as a result of this policy?

This funding will support a wide range of community organisations to help reduce inequalities and build resilience across East Lothian; within this broad objective, priority has been given to awarding grants to organisations with objectives and outcomes which support the East Lothian Partnership and East Lothian Council strategic priorities.

## 3. Do I need to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment?

High Relevance	Yes/no
1. The policy/ proposal has consequences for or affects people	Yes
2. The policy/proposal has potential to make a significant impact on equality	Yes
3. The policy/ proposal has the potential to make a significant impact on the economy and the delivery of economic outcomes	Yes
4. The policy/proposal is likely to have a significant environmental impact	Yes
Low Relevance	
5. The policy/proposal has little relevance to equality	
6. The policy/proposal has negligible impact on the economy	
7. The policy/proposal has no/ minimal impact on the environment	
<b>If you have identified low relevance please give a brief description of your reasoning here and send it to your Head of Service to record.</b>	

**If you have answered yes to 1, 2, or 3 above, please proceed to complete the Integrated Impact Assessment.**

If you have identified that your project will have a significant environmental impact (4), you will need to consider whether you need to complete a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

**4. What information/data/ consultation have you used to inform the policy to date?**

Evidence	Comments: what does the evidence tell you?
Data on populations in need	Ward profiles, SIMD statistics highlight areas with greatest levels of social deprivation. Area Plans developed by each of the six Area Partnerships, supported by the Connected Communities Service, draw on evidence to identify local needs and inform setting of priorities. Service and outcomes data relating to children and families and to health and social care, informs targeted need. Data collated for the LOIP and other key strategic documents were used.
Data on service uptake/access	Evaluation reports submitted by partner organisations indicate levels of uptake to services supported by the OCPF.
Data on quality/outcomes	Organisations which are in receipt of a One Council Partnership Grant or are supported by the Area Partnerships are required to submit an end of project report to evidence the outcomes which have been achieved as a result of this funding.
Research/literature evidence	Ward profiles, Area Plans (via the Area Partnerships), the East Lothian Council Plan, East Lothian Partnership's Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP) and other associated strategic documents and performance reporting data sets.
Service user experience information	Evaluation information to measure impact is required including request for feedback from the funded organisations, including service user feedback.

<p><b>Consultation and involvement findings</b></p>	<p>Applications to the Fund are open to any community group or organisation, presenting the opportunity for them to comment on community benefits, including presentation of any community consultation and involvement in development of their application. The award of One Council Partnership Funding is a delegated matter to the Head of Communities and Partnerships.</p> <p>VCEL have engaged with applicants directly this year, gathering feedback on the process and changes. In addition, a meeting between VCEL, ELC and wider 3<sup>rd</sup> sector took place in August to discuss the ongoing evolution of the process. With changes made following feedback from applicants.</p>
	<p>Head of Communities with decisions taken in consultation with a cross Council Officer Evaluation Panel taking account of key strategic priorities set within the Council Plan and Local Outcome Improvement Plan (and supporting plans e.g. Children’s Services Plan, Community Justice Partnership plan, Area Partnership Locality Plans etc.) all of which are subject to community consultation and engagement in their development.</p>
<p>Good practice guidelines</p>	<p>The approach complies with best practice as being transparent and accessible and in accordance with broad community planning and community empowerment principles.</p>
<p>Other (please specify)</p>	<p>A participatory budgeting (PB) approach has been successfully adopted in some Area Partnerships (Musselburgh and Preston Seton Gosford).</p>
<p>Is any further information required? How will you gather this?</p>	

## 5. How does the policy meet the different needs of groups in the community?

	<b>Issues identified and how the strategy addresses these</b>
<p><b>Equality Groups</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older people, people in the middle years,</li> <li>• Young people and children</li> <li>• Women, men and transgender people (includes issues relating to pregnancy and maternity)</li> <li>• Disabled people (includes physical disability, learning disability, sensory impairment, long-term medical conditions, mental health problems)</li> <li>• Minority ethnic people (includes Gypsy/Travellers, migrant workers, non-English speakers)</li> <li>• Refugees and asylum seekers</li> <li>• People with different religions or beliefs (includes people with no religion or belief)</li> <li>• Lesbian, gay, bisexual and heterosexual people</li> </ul> <p>People who are unmarried, married or in a civil partnership</p>	<p>The One Council Partnership Funding grant scheme supports community groups and organisations to provide local services to improve the well-being of people living within communities in East Lothian. The application process places a clear focus on tackling inequalities and promoting social inclusion.</p> <p>One Council Partnership Funding supports our Advice Consortium contract, which provides local residents, irrespective of circumstances, with advice, advocacy and support.</p> <p>Applicants are required to demonstrate how their proposal will contribute to achieving the East Lothian Partnership and Council's strategic priorities, thus ensuring greater accountability, transparency and equity.</p> <p>Each of the equalities groups will potentially benefit from this funding process.</p>

<p><b>Those vulnerable to falling into poverty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unemployed</li> <li>• People on benefits</li> <li>• Single Parents and vulnerable families</li> <li>• Pensioners</li> <li>• Looked after children</li> <li>• Those leaving care settings (including children and young people and those with illness)</li> <li>• Homeless people</li> <li>• Carers (including young carers)</li> <li>• Those involved in the community justice system</li> <li>• Those living in the most deprived communities (bottom 20% SIMD areas)</li> <li>• People misusing services</li> <li>• People with low literacy/numeracy</li> <li>• Others e.g. veterans, students</li> </ul>	<p>A key aim of the One Council Partnership Funding process is to target the funding awarded to reduce inequalities, to help vulnerable groups and those affected by poverty. The Area Partnerships also prioritise addressing inequalities in their geographic area in their use of funding allocated to them.</p>
<p><b>Geographical communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural/semi rural communities</li> <li>• Urban Communities</li> <li>• Coastal communities</li> </ul>	<p>There has been improved community promotion and targeting of this funding to ensure it benefits where most required. Funding is provided to all 20 Community Councils and 6 Area Partnerships which ensures that all areas in East Lothian receive funding support.</p>

**6. Are there any other factors which will affect the way this policy impacts on the community or staff groups?**

Applications are scored by a number of individuals to provide rigour to the review of applications and how they meet council priorities. An assessment panel involving representatives from relevant Council services and an external trusted partner enable a One Council approach on recommendations about awarding this funding. All of these recommendations are placed before the Administration before final decisions are made.

The delegated budgets to Area Partnerships and grants to Community Councils support community empowerment and local decision-making to meet local priorities.

Closer collaborative working with East Lothian's Third Sector Interface (TSI) Volunteer Centre East Lothian (VCEL) has helped to ensure alignment with strategic priorities, a review of groups governance to ensure they are sustainable and to avoid potential duplication of funding.

**7. Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors?**

If yes, how have you included equality and human rights considerations into the contract?

There are conditions attached to any grant funding approved which includes a requirement to comply with equalities legislation.

**8. Have you considered how you will communicate information about this policy or policy change to those affected e.g. to those with hearing loss, speech impairment or English as a second language?**

The funds are publicised on the Council's website and through social media. Accessible versions are available on request and we have met with organisations in advance and offered support to assist in reviewing content once completed.

**9. Please consider how your policy will impact on each of the following?**

Objectives	Comments
<b>Equality and Human rights</b>	
Promotes / advances equality of opportunity e.g. improves access to and quality of services, status	The revised funding application process actively promotes equalities as it is targeted at tackling inequalities.
Promotes good relations within and between people with protected characteristics and tackles harassment	Yes, as above.
Promotes participation, inclusion, dignity and self control over decisions	Yes, as above.
Builds family support networks, resilience and community capacity	Yes, community capacity building is integral to this funding stream to support community organisations to be sustainable and resilient.
Reduces crime and fear of crime	Yes, by taking account of Community Justice Partnership priorities and supporting youth work related organisations and social isolation projects for older persons in our communities.
Promotes healthier lifestyles including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• diet and nutrition,</li> <li>• sexual health,</li> <li>• substance misuse</li> <li>• Exercise and physical activity.</li> <li>• Lifeskills</li> </ul>	Funding awarded to the Area Partnerships and sports organisations assists in promoting healthy living and active travel.
<b>Environmental</b>	

Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in East Lothian	This funding will also have some environmental benefits, including community gardening, recycling and reuse projects and conservation projects and active travel initiatives.
(including carbon management)	
Plan for future climate change	
Pollution: air/ water/ soil/ noise	
Protect coastal and inland waters	
Enhance biodiversity	
Encourage resource efficiency (energy, water, materials and minerals)	
Public Safety: Minimise waste generation/ infection control/ accidental injury /fire risk	
Reduce need to travel / promote sustainable forms of transport	
Improves the physical environment e.g. housing quality, public and green space	
<b>Economic</b>	
Maximises income and /or reduces income inequality	Employability, training and life skills initiatives are all supported through this funding, assisting people to move out of poverty.
Helps young people into positive destinations	
Supports local business	
Helps people to access jobs (both paid and unpaid)	
Improving literacy and numeracy	
Improves working conditions, including equal pay	

Improves local employment opportunities	As above.
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### 10. Action Plan

Identified negative impact	Mitigating circumstances	Mitigating actions	Timeline	Responsible person
n/a				

### 11. Sign off by Head of Service

Name Eamon John  
Date 02 April 2026