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**Report Title:** Community Cash Grant Awards 2026/27

**What is the report trying to achieve?**

**Report:** This report presents the proposed Community Cash Grant allocations to voluntary and community sector organisations for the financial year 2026/27. The recommendations have been developed by the Community and Sport Working Group following their assessment of all eligible applications and consideration of how best to support local groups delivering valued services across the borough.

**What evidence/data is being used to support this equality analysis? Please select all that apply:** Key customer and access information from voluntary & community sector applications, Census data.

**Service Area:** Community Support

**Corporate Manager:** Kate Price

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**Links to supporting documents where available:** Community Grants Policy 2022 - [https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/ipswich/files/2024-11/community\\_grants\\_policy\\_2022.pdf](https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/ipswich/files/2024-11/community_grants_policy_2022.pdf)

**What is proposed?:** The report provides recommendations to Executive for the 2026-27 Community Cash Grant allocations. The grants support the work of voluntary and community sector organisations that contribute to local priorities and deliver positive outcomes for residents. These grants form an important part of the Council's wider commitment to strengthening community capacity, supporting local initiatives, and enabling organisations to deliver services that complement the Council's strategic objectives.

The Communities and Sports Working Group has assessed all eligible applications in accordance with the criteria set out in the policy. Executive is asked to consider these recommendations and determine which grants should be approved for award.

**Why are the changes being introduced?:** The three voluntary and community sector organisations identified in this report are approaching the end of their current funding agreements. The proposed allocations for 2026/27 will offer these organisations continuity and stability for the year ahead, enabling them to continue delivering vital services to residents across Ipswich.

**What evidence is being used to support this Equality Impact Assessment, and how is it being used?:** The Equality Impact Assessment for the Community Cash Grants is informed by a range of evidence sources to ensure that the proposed allocations support fair and equitable outcomes for all communities. The key evidence includes:

- Applications submitted by voluntary and community sector organisations, which provide information on the groups they support, the services they deliver, and the number of customers impacted by the service.
- Demographic data for Ipswich, including population characteristics, deprivation levels, and known inequalities across protected characteristic groups.
- Previous grant monitoring information, which highlights the impact of past funding, the reach of funded activities, and any identified gaps in provision.

- Feedback and insights from the Communities and Sports Working Group, who have reviewed the applications and considered how the proposals align with community needs and equality objectives.
- The Council's Community Grants Policy, which sets out the principles for fair, transparent, and inclusive allocation of funding.

**How will this change be implemented?:** If the Council's Executive Committee approves the recommendations, the Head of Community Support will be authorised to implement the decision and arrange payment to the relevant voluntary and community sector organisations.

**Age:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The proposed Community Cash Grants are expected to have a positive impact across all age groups. Many funded organisations provide services specifically for older people, children, and young people, helping to reduce isolation, improve wellbeing, and increase access to community activities. No negative impacts have been identified.

**Disability:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** A positive impact is anticipated for disabled residents, as several applicant organisations deliver inclusive services, accessible activities, or targeted support for people with physical, sensory, or learning disabilities. The grants help reduce barriers to participation and promote equal access to community resources.

**Marriage & Civil Partnership:** Neutral

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** No adverse impact is expected for people who are married or in civil partnerships. The services delivered by the applicants do not differentiate based on relationship status, and funded activities are open to all. The impact is therefore assessed as neutral.

**Race:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The proposals are expected to have a positive impact on residents from minority ethnic backgrounds. Some funded organisations provide culturally specific support, community engagement activities, or services that help address inequalities experienced by ethnic minority groups.

**Pregnancy & Maternity:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The impact on pregnancy and maternity is expected to be positive. The relevant voluntary and community sector organisations linked to this report offer family support, early years activities, or services that benefit parents and carers. No evidence suggests any disadvantage to this group.

**Religion or Belief:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The overall impact is considered to be positive. Community Cash Grants are not restricted by religion or belief, and the current and proposed funded organisations work with diverse communities. Activities are inclusive and accessible, and no negative impacts have been identified.

**Gender Reassignment:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The proposals are expected to have a positive impact on people undergoing or who have undergone gender reassignment. Funded organisations provide inclusive, safe spaces that support LGBTQ+ residents, and no evidence suggests any disadvantage to this group.

**Sex:** Positive

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The impact on sex is expected to be positive. Some organisations provide targeted support for women or men where specific needs have been identified, while most services are open to all. No negative impacts have been identified

**Sexual Orientation:** No impact

**Please provide an explanation of this impact and actions to mitigate any adverse impact, or further promote positive impact.:** The proposals are expected to have a positive impact on sexual orientation. Several organisations promote inclusion and support for LGBTQ+ residents, and no evidence suggests any disadvantage to this group.

**I can confirm the report does meet Ipswich Borough Council's equality objectives - Y**

**The report helps us to 'eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment & victimisation' in the following way(s):** The Community Cash Grants contribute to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation by ensuring that funding is allocated in a fair, transparent and inclusive way, and by supporting organisations whose work actively promotes equality.

- Applications are assessed against published criteria, reducing the risk of bias or discriminatory decision-making
- Promoting inclusive access to services or providing targeted support where inequalities are known to exist.
- Many funded groups work directly with people who may be at greater risk of discrimination or exclusion, including disabled residents, minority ethnic communities, LGBTQ+ people, older people, and those experiencing social or economic disadvantage
- All voluntary and community sector organisations recommended for funding have an Equality and Diversity Policy in place and are expected to demonstrate how they will help the Council to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty.

**The report helps us to 'advance equality of opportunity...' in the following way(s):**

Community Cash Grants helps advance equality of opportunity by supporting organisations that work directly with residents who may face social, economic or structural barriers. Funding enables these groups to provide accessible services, targeted support and inclusive activities that help reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for people with protected characteristics. The grants help to ensure that residents have fair access to opportunities, resources and support across Ipswich.

**The policy helps us to 'foster good relations...' in the following way(s):**

Many funded organisations deliver activities that bring people together, promote understanding across cultures and backgrounds, and create safe, inclusive spaces for shared participation. These activities help build trust, reduce social isolation and encourage positive interaction between groups who may not otherwise engage with one another.

**The new provisions will be reviewed in the following way(s)::**

The Council recognises the importance of ensuring that public funds are managed responsibly, allocated transparently, and used in a way that delivers clear benefits for local communities. The Council will:

- Regularly check compliance with grant conditions
- Assess delivery against agreed outcomes
- Evaluate reach and inclusivity
- Gain qualitative feedback
- Identify where funding is having the greatest impact