

**Report for:**  
**ACTION**

**Item Number:**

<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Title</b>	Commitment of Public Health Grant to fund new inequalities and engagement initiatives
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	Anna Bryden, Director of Public Health
<b>Author(s)</b>	Anna Bryden, Director of Public Health
<b>Portfolio(s)</b>	Cllr Raza Cllr Blacker
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
<b>Affected Wards</b>	All
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	Public health; finances; grant; inequalities; engagement; innovation

**Purpose of Report:**

The Council has a very clear commitment to reduce inequalities. The need for this has been highlighted and exacerbated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in the wider context explored in the findings and demands of the independent Race Equality Commission. Underlying this is also a clear need to continue to improve how the Council engages with all our communities. In order to support achievement of these aims, opportunities for funding have been proactively identified from the Public Health Grant for two initiatives. The first is to set aside annual funding of £90,000 to continue and expand the Community Champions programme. The second is to fund a one-off bidding process (£400,000) to support innovation across the Council for small initiatives to help reduce health inequalities.

**1. Recommendations for DECISION**

- 1.1 That the Cabinet agrees to commit £90,000 of annual funding to continuation of the Community Champions programme
- 1.2 That the Cabinet agrees to commit £400,000 of non-recurrent funding to create a fund to support innovative proposals which focus on reducing health inequalities

## **2. Recommendations for NOTING**

2.1 None

## **3. Reason for Decision and Options Considered**

3.1 As a core part of the Labour Manifesto and the Council Plan, there is a clear commitment to reduce inequalities. The need for this has been highlighted and exacerbated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in the wider context explored in the findings and demands of the independent Race Equality Commission that reported in January this year. Underlying this is also a clear need to continue to improve how the Council engages with all our communities through long-term, ongoing conversations because this will be the way in which we can best understand, and then address, what we can do together to help people live healthy and happy lives.

3.2 During the last two years we have worked with people in the community who wanted to help respond to the crisis, and who were able to use their networks to promote messages about what everyone should do to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. We have built a different kind of relationship by looking at what we can do collaboratively, identifying barriers to accessing and making use of accurate information, and providing tailored support. In January 2022, the council received a £485,000 grant from the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities to deliver a Community Vaccine Champions programme that builds on this approach, working with voluntary sector partners, including the EACH consortium. We are developing a new matrix for providing community support, starting with talking to groups to understand what the council can do to help increase capacity, particularly for those smaller voluntary sector organisations who continue to work with us to promote vaccination, and with a view to expanding the work to address wider health issues. After the funding comes to an end in autumn 2022, it is proposed that £90,000 of Public Health Grant is used to continue and build on the key elements of the Community Champions programme. Details for how this resource will be used will be developed during this year, as the programme is rolled out and evaluated, and will be co-produced with community representatives. A large part of the resource is likely to be used to fund some workforce to lead on the programme. This will support continuation of an approach which will help with long-term engagement with our local communities, responding to one of the demands of the Race Equality Commission to put communities at the heart of health programme design, and with a focus on supporting broader health and wellbeing. This is particularly important for those people in the parts of the borough that were identified in the Commission's findings as feeling left behind and under-served by health services.

3.3 There is also an opportunity to commit £400,000 from the Public Health Grant to a one-off fund to support new and innovative proposals from across the Council which focus on our priorities for reducing health inequalities, based on our understanding of what we know about our communities. This would entail an internal bidding process and a cross-Council decision-making panel, chaired by the Director of Public Health. Assessment criteria are to be finalised, but key proposed criteria would include the points below:

- Specific aim to reduce health inequalities, particularly in relation to the Race Equality Commission health demands and prioritising communities who have most felt the impacts of covid. Bidders may find it helpful to refer to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment ([www.ealing.gov.uk/jsna](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/jsna)), the recent Annual Public Health Report which focused on inequalities during the pandemic ([https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/3826/annual\\_public\\_health\\_reports](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/3826/annual_public_health_reports)) and the Race Equality Commission report (<https://erec.dosomethinggood.org.uk/>).
- To be used for a new area of spend and/or continuation of covid recovery support. Bidders should assure themselves that there is no duplication with existing spend or services provided.
- Bids will need to be submitted by Council teams. Teams are strongly encouraged to co-develop their bids with local partner organisations (e.g. NHS) and/or community, voluntary or faith groups. Teams are also encouraged to submit joint bids with other teams across the Council.
- Sustainability, to ensure a meaningful and long-lasting use of the funds – e.g. something that then becomes embedded in existing work/services, such as training for staff/communities or pump-priming a longer-term area of work. Bids can also be submitted to pilot and evaluate a new approach or service, as long as there is alternative sustainable funding to then take it forward.
- Bids can be any value up to a maximum of £100,000.
- Funding for successful bids can cover more than one financial year (e.g. for a 3-year initiative).
- The bidding process will be developed in detail by the Public Health department, in collaboration with other departments such as Finance, Strategy & Engagement and Community Development.

3.4 All spend must be in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Public Health Grant, and approved as such by the Director of Public Health. Bidders will be asked to specify which category of the grant conditions their bid will meet. Details are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2022-to-2023/public-health-ringfenced-grant-2022-to-2023-local-authority-circular#annex-c-categories>

## 4. Key Implications

4.1 Positive opportunity for innovative cross-council initiatives to support reductions in health inequalities.

## 5. Financial

### a) Financial impact on the budget

The Public Health grant is ring fenced and used towards achieving Public Health outcomes.

The financial impact of the recommendations within the report are contained to the Public Health Grant and the Public Health Reserve as set out below.

- **Community Champions programme** - The £90,000 annual contribution towards the continuation of this scheme will be funded from the 22/23 public health grant uplift of £708,605.
- **Innovative proposals which focus on reducing health inequalities** - The £400,000 non-recurrent commitment to support this proposal will be funded from the Public Health reserves.

The financial commitment of using the Public Health grant allocation and reserve balance is as follows:

	Frequency	Year 1 (2022/23)	Year 2 (2023/24)	Year 3 (2024/25)	Year 4 (2025/26)
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Innovative proposals to reduce health inequalities	One-Off	400			
Continuation of Community Champions programme	Recurrent	90	90	90	90
<b>Total</b>		490	90	90	90

## 6. Legal

The Health and Care Act 2012 transferred public health responsibilities to local authorities by way of a ring-fenced grant. Local authorities are mandated to support and fund a range of public health activities. The Grant Terms and Conditions will be reviewed by the Council's Legal team.

When making decisions public authorities must act reasonably.

S149 Equality Act 2010 requires public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Act; Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not share it.
- (b) The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation.
- (c) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
- (d) Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic; take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it; encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- (e) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (f) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.
- (g) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

As part of the grant allocation process the Council will consider and assess the impact that the proposed programmes/grants could have on different protected groups and, where possible, identify methods for mitigating or avoiding any adverse impact on those groups. The underlying purpose of this proposal is to tackle health inequality.

## **7. Value For Money**

For the Community Champions programme, the main costs are likely to be staffing and will be benchmarked and graded as per the usual HR processes. For the inequalities fund, all bidding teams will be responsible for taking forward their initiative. This will include ensuring that all procurement and value for money processes are followed.

## **8. Sustainability Impact Appraisal**

Sustainability will be a key criteria of the inequalities fund, to ensure a meaningful and long-lasting use of the funds. This could include something that then becomes embedded in existing work/services, such as training for staff/communities or pump-priming a longer-term area of work.

## **9. Risk Management**

No major risks. Sustainability of initiatives will be assessed as a specific part of the bidding process for the £400,000 fund.

## **10. Community Safety**

No direct impact

## **11. Links to the 3 Key Priorities for the Borough**

Direct link to the key priority of Fighting inequality. Bids could also potentially support the other key priorities, as long as they met the Public Health Grant terms and conditions.

## **12. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion**

Both of these funding decisions are intended to support the reduction on inequalities in Ealing. A full Equality Analysis Assessment has not been undertaken at this stage, as the paper does not provide details of specific service changes, etc.

## **13. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications:**

As the detailed plan develops for the Community Champions programme, this may involve recruiting to a small number of roles.

No specific accommodation implications.

## **14. Property and Assets**

No implications

## **15. Any other implications:**

None

## **16. Consultation**

Consultation has been carried out with Council officers and Lead Members, particularly with regards to the scope and process for the £400,000 fund.

## **17. Timetable for Implementation**

The current Community Champions programme will continue to be rolled out and evaluated over the summer and autumn 2022, and a detailed plan will then be developed for the most appropriate way to take forward the programme in the longer term, based on iterative learning with community representatives.

The process for the inequalities fund will be finalised over the summer, with an intention to launch in the autumn.

## **18. Appendices**

None

## **19. Background Information**

Public Health Grant categories are available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-grants-to-local-authorities-2022-to-2023/public-health-ringfenced-grant-2022-to-2023-local-authority-circular#annex-c-categories>

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: [www.ealing.gov.uk/jsna](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/jsna)

Annual Public Health Report:

[https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/3826/annual\\_public\\_health\\_reports](https://www.ealing.gov.uk/downloads/download/3826/annual_public_health_reports)

Race Equality Commission report: <https://erec.dosomethinggood.org.uk/>

## Consultation

<b>Name of consultee</b>	<b>Post held</b>	<b>Date sent to consultee</b>	<b>Date response received</b>	<b>Comments appear in paragraph:</b>
<b>Internal</b>				
Mark Wiltshire	Director of Community Development	27/05/22	31/05/22	3.1-3.3
Joanna Sumner	AD Communities	27/05/22	07/06/22	3.1-3.3
Kieran Reed	Director of Strategy & Engagement	27/05/22	07/06/22	3.1-3.3
Russell Dyer	Head of Accountancy	27/05/22		
Jumoke Adebisi	Senior Finance Business Advisor	27/05/22	13/06/22	5
Judith Finlay	Executive Director – Children’s, Adults & Public Health	31/05/22	14/06/22	Purpose; 3.1-3.3
Cllr Raza	Cabinet Member	08/06/22		
Cllr Blacker	Cabinet Member	08/06/22	13/06/22	Purpose
Kathleen Ennis	Principal Lawyer (Housing and Social Care)	31/05/22	10/06/22	6
Rubinder Bains	Deputy Director of Public Health	08/06/22	13/06/22	3.3
<b>External</b>				

## Report History

<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Urgency item?</b>
Non-key decision	No
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries: Anna Bryden, Director of Public Health