

Appendix 5

Shropshire Equality and Social Inclusion Impact Assessment (ESIIA)

Shropshire Council Part 1 ESIIA: initial screening and assessment

Name of service change

**Environmental Maintenance Grant Programme: proposals for consultation
13 12 17**

Aims of the service change and description

Introduction

At its meeting of 4th September 2017, Shropshire Council's Communities Overview Committee confirmed Terms of Reference for a time limited Task & Finish Group to review Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) programme.

The purpose of the Task & Finish Group was agreed as making recommendations on Shropshire Council's future approach to its EMG programme, e.g. the programme is stopped, the programme continues as is, or the programme is redesigned and continues.

To inform this work the design and the delivery of the current programme – e.g. its budget, the application process, any monitoring and evaluation and the overall outcomes achieved by the programme needed to be understood.

These considerations were made in the context of Shropshire Council's extremely challenging financial position. Members of the Task & Finish Group wanted to consider if continuing the grant programme was a sustainable position at a time of declining revenue budgets, and what added, social and preventative impact is enabled through the investment of the grant.

The status of the EMG programme is a grant programme and as such, Shropshire Council is able to make changes to the delivery of the programme at any point. However, within the 2017/18 EMG application paperwork Shropshire Council advised potential applicants that the EMG programme would be reviewed and that the outcome of this review would be consulted on.

Summary of proposals

Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance Grant programme should continue with the following changes to its design and delivery –

i. Changes to eligible activity

The activity eligible for funding from the programme should be the activity that brings most added value to the delivery of Shropshire Council's Highways term maintenance contract. i.e. supporting Shropshire Council's status as a Level 3 Asset Management Authority.

ii. Application eligibility

The eligible applicants should be limited to Shropshire's rural town and parish councils. Urban town councils a population of over 10K should be ineligible to apply.

iii. Value for money and incentivising added value

The grant should not be used to top up core budgets but should be used for discrete maintenance purposes. Applications should be scored according to how they demonstrate value for money and provide added value to the core funding and activity. Examples of VFM and added value should be –

- Councils demonstrating that they are committed to their effective delivery of environmental maintenance works in their areas by contributing to or matching grant funding.
- Demonstrating that councils are working together to provide economies of scale and reduce costs, e.g. multiple parishes let 1 contract.
- The design of activity that clearly creates social value, the appropriate use of volunteers to add value to the core activity

iv. Design of the funding programme

Funding decisions should be made for a 3 year period, e.g. 2018/19 – 2020/21. This will reduce bureaucracy associated with the application process and provide more time for monitoring and evaluation of applications. It should also enable local councils to let 3 year contracts that offer greater value for money with confidence. It is recommended that the EMG programme is reviewed in year 2 and a decision then made about the future of the scheme, from the end of year 3. If the decision is made to end the EMG programme at this point, a 12 month notice period should be given.

v. Annual value of the funding programme

The annual value of the programme should be £75,000. There will be no increase to this amount.

vi. Value of individual grants

The maximum value of individual grants should be £1500 p.a. There should be no increase to this amount.

vii. Application criteria, guidance notes and monitoring.

The guidance notes accompanying the application process should be reviewed and rewritten to ensure that there is absolute clarity about the design and delivery of the grant funded activity. There should be a particular focus on health and safety. This should also include a more robust approach to monitoring the funded activity through the completion and submission of an annual report from each recipient, and a process for this should be designed and implemented. A process should be put in place to ensure appropriate signing off of the annual reports.

viii. Consultation on proposed changes to the EMG programme

A 6 week consultation period should be delivered in early 2018 on the proposed changes to the EMG programme.

Background to proposals

Shropshire Council's Highways and Transport team has operated the Environmental Maintenance Grant (EMG) programme for the last 8 years. The programme has operated successfully and is seen as delivering a number of benefits.

The recipients of the grants are overwhelmingly rural parish councils and a small number of town councils. There is one community group using a grant to enable local residents to carry out litter picks and environmental tidy-ups.

Feedback from local councils that have received an EMG is that a review of the design and delivery of the EMG programme is needed. Their general view is that the grants are welcome, valued and a practical way for Shropshire Council to support locality working.

There is an alternative view, which is that the current grants system doesn't achieve a critical mass to make community and service impacts and generate financial efficiencies, and should be stopped, within an agreed and communicated process.

Finally, there is the view that as Shropshire Council is still in the challenging position of budget

reductions and increasing expenditure, it simply cannot afford to continue to fund the EMG programme and the activity could be funded directly by local councils.

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Intended audiences and target groups for the service change

Summary of principal target groups:

Previous and current recipients of the EMGs
All town and parish councils

Summary of other target groups:

Shropshire Council elected members
Residents within areas where EMG funded activity is delivered
Lengthsman and other contractors delivering EMG funded activity

Evidence used for screening of the service change

The information gathered by the EMG Task & Finish Group at a workshop on 16th November 2017
Outcomes of the proposed consultation to be held in January 2018

Specific consultation and engagement with intended audiences and target groups for the service change

EMG Task & Finish Group Workshop held on 16th November 2017
Proposed consultation on proposed changes to be held in January 2018

Potential impact on Protected Characteristic groups and on social inclusion Guidance notes on how to carry out the initial assessment

Using the results of evidence gathering and specific consultation and engagement, please consider how the service change as proposed may affect people within the nine Protected Characteristic groups and people at risk of social exclusion.

1. Have the intended audiences and target groups been consulted about:
 - their current needs and aspirations and what is important to them;
 - the potential impact of this service change on them, whether positive or negative, intended or unintended;
 - the potential barriers they may face.
2. If the intended audience and target groups have not been consulted directly, have representatives been consulted, or people with specialist knowledge, or research explored?
3. Have other stakeholder groups and secondary groups, for example carers of service users, been explored in terms of potential unintended impacts?
4. Are there systems set up to:
 - monitor the impact, positive or negative, intended or intended, for all the different groups;
 - enable open feedback and suggestions from a variety of audiences through a variety of methods.
5. Are there any Human Rights implications? For example, is there a breach of one or more of the human rights of an individual or group?
6. Will the service change as proposed have a positive or negative impact on fostering good relations?
7. Will the service change as proposed have a positive or negative impact on social inclusion?

Guidance on what a negative impact might look like

High Negative	Significant potential impact, risk of exposure, history of complaints, no mitigating measures in place or no evidence available: urgent need for consultation with customers, general public, workforce
Medium Negative	Some potential impact, some mitigating measures in place but no evidence available how effective they are: would be beneficial to consult with customers, general public, workforce
Low Negative	Almost bordering on non-relevance to the ESIIA process (heavily legislation led, very little discretion can be exercised, limited public facing aspect, national policy affecting degree of local impact possible)

Initial assessment for each group

Please rate the impact that you perceive the service change is likely to have on a group, through inserting a tick in the relevant column.

Protected Characteristic groups and other	High negative impact <i>Part Two</i>	High positive impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	Medium positive or negative impact	Low positive or negative impact <i>Part One ESIIA required</i>
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groups in Shropshire	<i>ESIIA required</i>		<i>Part One ESIIA required</i>	
Age (please include children, young people, people of working age, older people. Some people may belong to more than one group eg young person with disability)				√
Disability (please include: mental health conditions and syndromes including autism; physical disabilities or impairments; learning disabilities; Multiple Sclerosis; cancer; HIV)				√
Gender re-assignment (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√
Marriage and Civil Partnership (please include associated aspects: caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√
Pregnancy and Maternity (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√
Race (please include: ethnicity, nationality, culture, language, gypsy, traveller)				√
Religion and belief (please include: Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Non conformists; Rastafarianism; Sikhism, Shinto, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, and any others)				√
Sex (please include associated aspects: safety, caring responsibility, potential for bullying and harassment)				√
Sexual Orientation (please include associated aspects: safety; caring responsibility; potential for bullying and harassment)				√
Other: Social Inclusion (please include families and friends with caring responsibilities; people with health inequalities; households in poverty; refugees and asylum seekers; rural communities; people you consider to be vulnerable)			Very rural communities √	

Decision, review and monitoring



Decision	Yes	No
Part One ESIIA Only?	√	
Proceed to Part Two Full Report?		√

If Part One, please now use the boxes below and sign off at the foot of the page. If Part Two, please move on to the full report stage.


Actions to mitigate negative impact or enhance positive impact of the service change
The proposed recommendations in the report to Cabinet – ‘ Environmental Maintenance Grant Programme - Proposals for changes to the design and delivery of the programme ’ whilst reducing the total amount of funding available within the programme and the maximum amount of individual grants, have been designed to mitigate any negative impact.

Actions to review and monitor the impact of the service change
Deliver proposed consultation on proposed changes in January 2018.
Evaluation and review of the ESIIA to incorporate feedback from the proposed consultation and any changes to the anticipated likely impacts of the proposed service change.

Scrutiny at Part One screening stage

People involved	Signatures	Date
<i>Lead officer carrying out the screening</i> Kate Garner, Locality Commissioning Manager		13 December 2017
<i>Any internal support</i>		
<i>Any external support</i>		
<i>Head of service</i> Steve Brown, Highways, Transport and Environment Commissioning Manager		13 December 2017

Sign off at Part One screening stage

Name	Signatures	Date
Kate Garner, Locality Commissioning Manager		13 December 2017