

Summary Fair Treatment Assessment (FTA)

Area for Assessment:	
Name of service or function etc	Socio-Economic Workstream (SEWS) Small and Main Grants Process
Which Service does this affect?	Economic Development & Regeneration Services
Is this a new, existing or revised function?	Existing (newly formalised)
Summary of findings:	
Main conclusions on the likely impact of the function on different equality groups (protected characteristics):	
<p>The North Solihull Partnerships allocates a proportion of funds on an annual basis for the provision of small (up to £500) and main (no upper limit set) grants. This amount is based on a percentage of the value of land sales received in the previous financial year. The grants are allocated through the Socio-Economic Workstream, which is one of key workstreams of the North Solihull Regeneration Programme, and are aimed at addressing the key Social and Economic outcomes in the north of the Borough.</p> <p>The Main Grants Programme can be accessed by larger groups and agencies which have a good track record of delivering successful projects. During 2011/12 the emphasis of funding was on: Health/Crime/Business and Employment/Improved Open Space/Community Capacity Building and Community Engagement.</p> <p>The Small Grants Programme can be accessed by community groups within North Solihull as long as they have a set of rules, the funding is given to them up front and, when the project is delivered, they return the single page Project Monitoring Report.</p> <p>The assessment has shown that, although the funding has not primarily focussed on meeting all of the equality objectives, the majority of projects have met a number of them. This has included: Gender, Age, Disability, Pregnancy/Maternity and, primarily, Socio-Economic Disadvantage, and the full assessment includes reference to these and details of these projects are included as an appendix.</p> <p>Further positive aspects of the Main and Small Grants process that have been identified by the assessment include: that both grant programmes are marketed widely across the North of the Borough, that the paperwork associated with each of the programmes - grant application template, appraisal process and monitoring form is proportionate to the grant requested and that, for the Small Grants Programme, the funding is given up front reducing the necessity for the organisation to cash flow the project.</p> <p>Additionally, opportunities have been facilitated to enable cross working between projects and for best practice to be shared.</p> <p>A number of opportunities have been identified, though, to ensure that the programme is more robust in the meeting of the equality objectives and these are listed in the Actions section.</p>	
Actions:	

Actions identified to address negative impacts identified or to better promote equality, human rights, cohesive and sustainable communities and safeguarding issues		
Action	Outcome	Timescale
Inserted that projects should be encouraged to monitor against the equality strands	Increased understanding of groups engaged	August 12
Formalise guidelines for the Main Grants	More focussed investment	July 12
Ensure promotion to as wide a range of groups as possible	Increased number of applications from an increased range of groups	July 12
Date Assessment Signed Off	2 May 2012	