

Inquiry Scope

Title	To assess the effectiveness of community organisation grants during the Covid-19 pandemic
Signed-off by	SC Chairman Paul Irwin
	Head of Democratic and Electoral Services (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
Author	Clare Gray
Date	27 August 2020
Inquiry Group Membership	Six (approx.)
Democratic Services Resource	Committee and Governance Manager Senior Democratic Services Officer – Policy Lead & project management
Lead Cabinet Member	Gareth Williams
Lead Service Officer	Claire Hawkes
What is the problem that is trying to be solved?	At the onset of the covid-19 pandemic local people were really engaged in participating in a community response. Many organised themselves into groups or partnered with established groups to provide assistance and support to their neighbours. In the absence of community boards being established a Councillor Crisis fund was initiated, utilising £250K of public health money allocated to the community boards, with a further £50k received from the Rothschild. The funding had to be issued quickly. It is helpful to review the distribution and effectiveness of this funding.
What might the Inquiry Achieve?	Using lessons learnt to provide recommendations on the management of community grants for any future pandemic ensuring that:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there are no gaps or duplicate services, • that resources are being used effectively and efficiently providing value for money for all residents through good partnership working, • benefits are provided which may have a long term impact on communities.
Is this topic within the remit of the Select Committee?	The remit of the Committee encompasses the overview and scrutiny of all aspects of the community and covers the following portfolios; Communities and Public Health, Sport and Leisure, Culture and Regulatory Services. This Inquiry will focus on Communities and Public Health.
What work is underway already on this issue?	The Local Support Hub team, led by Emma Denley, Charlie Robinson and Katie Galvin, was formally established in June and will be in place for 12 months working alongside the teams in Localities and Strategic Partnerships. With shielding restrictions largely being paused on 1 August, the team are now planning and preparing for future lockdowns, feeding in to the local outbreak plan and co-designing policies at a National level plus ensuring support is still available for

	the most vulnerable residents feeling unable to get back to a 'normal' lifestyle. The aim is to have in place a robust approach to supporting all vulnerable people, linking with our Community boards and partners to allow us to respond quickly and efficiently.
Are there any key changes that might impact on this issue?	Local outbreak plan / voluntary and community strategy under development
What are the key timing considerations?	To undertake a timely review in case there is a further spike so findings can form a response to any further local lockdown
Who are the key stakeholders & decision-makers?	Rothschild, Clare Foundation, Heart of Bucks, LEAP, local Councillors , Cabinet Member, Service Director
What is out of scope?	Local outbreak plan
What media/communications support do you want?	Press release to promote the report once published

Evidence-gathering Methodology

What types of methods of evidence-gathering will you use?
<p>List them here eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email local organisation who received grants to obtain feedback on vfm and longer term impact • Meetings • Interviews Community org, Clare F, Rothschild, Heart of Bucks, Local councillors, LEAP • Desktop-research

Outline Inquiry Project Plan

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping	Inquiry Scope Agreed by Select Committee	24 Sept
Evidence-gathering	Evidence-gathering phase - 2 days of evidence gathering	Oct -Nov
Reporting	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed (signed-off by SC Chairman)	Mid Nov
	Report published for Select Committee (special meeting)	Late Nov
	Select Committee agrees report to go forward to decision-makers	Early Dec
	Cabinet/Partner considers recommendations	5 Jan