# Equality Impact Assessment

**Validation Decision Notice**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EIA Reference Number</th>
<th>79</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service, policy, or strategy</strong></td>
<td>Annual Core Funding process for regularly funded Arts and Heritage organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Element(s) assessed</strong></td>
<td>Introduction of a new decision making framework</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Names of Assessors</strong></td>
<td>Finance Officer, Auditor, Contracts officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consider:**

- Was discrimination or disadvantage identified?  
  - Yes [✓]  
  - No [ ]

- Was the service promoting equality?  
  - Yes [✓]  
  - No [ ]

- Could the service be improved in promoting equality?  
  - Yes [✓]  
  - No [ ]

- Are the customers' needs understood and met?  
  - Yes [✓]  
  - No [ ]

- Is there good evidence and/or reasoning to support the decisions on whether groups are/aren't affected?  
  - Yes [✓]  
  - No [ ]

- Does the summary report properly reflect the key findings of the assessment?  
  - Yes [✓]  
  - No [ ]

- Is the summary report clear and easy to understand?  
  - Yes [✓]  
  - No [ ]

- If improvements have been identified, do they reflect and deal with the key findings?  
  - Yes [ ]  
  - No [✓]  
  - N/A [ ]

**The decision is to:**  
- **Validate** [✓]  
- **Not validate** [ ]

**The reason/s for the decision are:** please give details below

- Validation given – information correct [ ]
- Not validated – decision not to proceed as EIA incorrect [ ]
- Not validated - screening error [ ]
- Not validated – research/consultation error [ ]
- Not validated – improvement error [ ]

**Signed**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Karen Brimacombe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Designation**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Corporate Director</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Date**

| 26 May 2011 |
Briefing Note

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name of service, policy, or strategy being considered</th>
<th>Annual Core Funding Process for Regularly Funded Arts and Heritage Organisations</th>
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<td>Date of meeting</td>
<td>9/3/2011</td>
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The Assessment

From 2012/13 it is proposed to adopt a new scoring system/funding criteria in relation to the professional arts and heritage organisations currently in receipt of annual core funding. Changes will bring the process into line with other council schemes, clarify funding decisions and performance monitoring and broaden potential applicants.

Assessment Findings

The new decision making framework will introduce a change to the current funding and monitoring process.

Justification

As there is a potential impact on organisations a scoping/screening EIA is considered appropriate.
## Summary Report

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### The Assessment

The borough council currently provides annual core funding to a number of professional arts and heritage organisations within the borough, which meet council priorities. The borough council has long-standing relationships with these regularly funded organisations (RFOs) and within the current system and budget allocation there is no flexibility to offer funding outside these arrangements.

From 2012/13 it is proposed to adopt a new decision making framework (DMF) for core funded arts and heritage organisations, which will bring the process into line with other council schemes, clarify funding decisions and performance monitoring and broaden potential applicants.

Professional organisations will be assessed against a range of criteria, using a balanced scorecard approach. New performance monitoring will also be introduced. This will ensure that the council is more consistent in how it awards grant funding and should help to broaden those organisations able to access funding in the longer term.

### Consultation and Research

Consultation has been undertaken with the Sport and Community teams who have already introduced similar systems. Discussion has also taken place with Hampshire County Council, which joint funds many of the organisations and operates its own balanced scorecard approach to funding. Prior to the introduction of the DMF in 2012/13 there will be on-going consultation with the existing RFOs as well as other non-funded professional organisations from the cultural sector.

### Assessment Findings

The introduction of the new decision making framework should provide opportunities for new applicants to access council funding and support, and will therefore be more inclusive. It is anticipated that there will be benefit to the wider community and voluntary/amateur arts sector as they are users of cultural facilities and their programmes.

### Actions Arising

None.