

## **Use of Artificial Intelligence in Community Grant Applications Statement for CVS Organisations**

The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools and applications has increased significantly in recent years, reflecting wider advancements in digital technology and their growing accessibility within everyday life. This trend is evident across both public sector organisations and the community and voluntary sector, where AI-enabled tools are increasingly being used to support and enhance administrative processes.

Within the context of community grant funding, it is now clear that some organisations are using AI tools to assist in the preparation of applications and supporting documentation. This may include drafting responses, structuring proposals, or refining written content. This mirrors the Council's own adoption of similar technologies, such as the integration of AI-supported tools within workplace systems to improve efficiency and consistency.

The use of such tools is not viewed negatively. When applied appropriately, AI can support organisations to articulate their proposals more clearly, reduce administrative burden, and improve overall access to funding opportunities. This is particularly relevant for smaller organisations with limited capacity. However, the use of AI also introduces potential risks, including inaccuracies, over-reliance on generic content, or submissions that do not fully reflect the organisation's actual activities or intentions.

In line with emerging best practice across the United Kingdom, a proportionate and transparent approach is proposed. This will involve the introduction of a standard declaration within all community grant application forms. Applicants will be asked to confirm whether AI tools have been used in the development of their application and to provide assurance that all content has been reviewed and verified for accuracy prior to submission.

There will be no penalty associated with the use of AI tools. The primary objective is to promote transparency, maintain the integrity of the assessment process, and ensure that decision-making is based on accurate and reliable information. This approach aligns with principles of good governance, proportionality, and fairness, while recognising the evolving digital landscape in which community organisations operate.

This measure will also support officers in undertaking proportionate due diligence, particularly where clarification may be required, and will help ensure that applications remain grounded in demonstrable community need and organisational capability