

# Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee



Wednesday, 21 April 2021 at 5.30 p.m.

Online 'Virtual' Meeting - <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

## Agenda

### Chair

Councillor Candida Ronald  
(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)

### Members

Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities )

### Substitutes

Councillor Sabina Akhtar	(Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit)
Councillor Rachel Blake	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Social Inclusion
Councillor Danny Hassell	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Asma Islam	Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Environment
Councillor Eve McQuillan	Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Planning
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth)
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Public Realm

[The quorum for the Sub - Committee is 3 Members]

### Further Information

Reports for consideration, meeting contact details, public participation and more information on decision-making is available on the following pages.



## Public Information

### Viewing or Participating in Meetings

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Grants Determination Sub - Committee. Except where any exempt/restricted documents are being discussed, the public are welcome to view this meeting through the Council's webcast system.

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### Meeting Webcast

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### Contact for further enquiries:

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# London Borough of Tower Hamlets

## Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

Wednesday, 21 April 2021

5.30 p.m.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Pages 5 - 6)**

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, please see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are reminded to declare the nature of the interest and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it's the Members' responsibility to declare any interests form and to update their register of interest form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of your interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services

**3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES (Pages 7 - 14)**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

Consideration of any written comments received from members of the public in relation to any of the reports on the agenda.

[Any submissions should be sent to the clerk listed on the agenda front page by 5pm the day before the meeting]

**5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS**

To note for information individual decisions relating to the award of grants that have been taken by the Mayor the last meeting.



## **6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

<b>6 .1</b>	<b>SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme 2021</b>	<b>15 - 22</b>	<b>All Wards</b>
<b>6 .2</b>	<b>Schools Energy Retrofit Programme 2021</b>	<b>23 - 30</b>	<b>All Wards</b>
<b>6 .3</b>	<b>Changes to Grant Funding to Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT)'. </b>	<b>31 - 44</b>	<b>St Dunstan's</b>
<b>6 .4</b>	<b>Formal offer of Historic Buildings Grant to Greenlight Youth Club</b>	<b>45 - 52</b>	<b>Bow East</b>
<b>6 .5</b>	<b>VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority and Equalities Contract Provision Transition Fund</b>	<b>53 - 78</b>	<b>All Wards</b>

## **7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

### **Next Meeting of the Committee:**

Wednesday, 23 June 2021 at 5.30 p.m.



# Agenda Item 2.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER**

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

### **(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)**

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

**DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests.** In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

### **(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)**

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

### **(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.**

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

### **Guidance on Predetermination and Bias**

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

### **Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting**

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

**Further Advice** contact: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer,  
Tel: 0207 364 4800.

## **APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either—  (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or  (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 5.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3 FEBRUARY 2021**

**ONLINE 'VIRTUAL' MEETING - [HTTPS://TOWERHAMLETS.PUBLIC-I.TV/CORE/PORTAL/HOME](https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home)**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Candida Ronald (Chair)	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services and Education)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor for Community Safety, Faith and Equalities )

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Leema Qureshi  
(Scrutiny Lead Resources)

**Officers Present:**

Awo Ahmed	(Programme Assessment and Monitoring Officer, Corporate Strategy & Policy, Communities Team)
Michael Coleman	(HAC Capital Programme Manager)
Emily Fieran-Reed	(Senior Strategy and Policy Manager, Communities Team, Corporate Strategy & Policy Strategy, Policy & Performance Division)
David Freeman	(Policy and Strategy Manager, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS))
Robert Mee	(Programme Analysis & Review Officer, Corporate Strategy & Policy, Communities Team, Governance)
Filuck Miah	(Strategy and Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Policy Team)
Mohammed Raja	(Parks Development Officer - Community)
Anna Zucchelli	(Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place)
Zoe Folley	(Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No Declarations of Pecuniary Interests were reported.

**3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Sub – Committee held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

There were none

**5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS**

There were none

**6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**6.1 Suttons Wharf Health Centre, To approve additional grant funding of £398,088 (excl. VAT).**

Michael Coleman, (HAC Capital Programme Manager) presented the report seeking an additional £398,088 of s106/CIL funding to meet the increased costs of providing a modern health facility within the Suttons Wharf development, to be operated by the Globe Town Surgery.

It was reported that a number of unforeseen issues had affected the project, leading to further cost increases.

These related to the impact of:

- Brexit related uncertainties and the associated increase in supply costs.
- Covid 19 on working practices.
- The need to change the cladding following the Grenfell tragedy.
- There had also been issues with and delays with the project delivery.

The proposals included contingency funding to cover any small additional costs.

This project was being delivered by NHS Property Services (NHSPS) and the Waltham Forest and East London Clinical Commissioning Group (WELCCG), Jack Dunmore, of the NHS was also present, to respond to questions.



It was noted that the Council had sought assurances from the NHS and challenged the request for additional funding. This was with a view to understanding the costs of the project and ensuring they were required and were not particular to this scheme. Officers were satisfied that the process was robust and that similar issues had arisen with other projects outside Tower Hamlets. The consequences of not approving the funding would mean that the project could not be completed and the benefits of the scheme could not be delivered.

The Sub - Committee and Councillor Leema Qureshi asked a number of questions and discussed the following points:

- Members welcomed the improvements to health facilities in the Borough and was pleased to hear about the proposed completion date of April to May 2021.
- The Sub – Committee also discussed the plans to ensure that the layout met Covid restrictions. It was noted that the layout should comprise such features as one way systems and provide screening where necessary. It was reported that the mitigating measures would be in place in time for the opening of the facility.
- Members also asked about the introduction of the Building (Amendment) Regulations 2018 relating to building cladding and how this had affected the project.
- It was confirmed that the surgery formed part of a mixed used development including buildings with cladding. Details of this was outlined.
- Officers undertook to confirm the date of the redesign changes in relation to the introduce of the new legislation.
- It was noted that liability for the project, (beyond the construction costs, such as the maintenance costs) would rest with NHS Properties and the freeholders.
- In terms of the benchmarking exercise, it was emphasised that Officers had carried out due diligence tests of the costs with the NHS cost consultants, based on other projects, they had worked on. Details of the full assessment process was set out in the report. Assurances were sought and Officers had been assured that the costs were not specific to this project only.

**RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the grant funding of an additional £398,088 of s106 funding for healthcare facilities, excluding VAT, to complete the new health facility within the Suttons Wharf development.
2. To authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to resolution 1 above.

## **6.2 Renewal of Service Level Agreements with Mudchute Farm and Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park**

Mohammed Raja, (Parks Development Officer), presented the report seeking approval of two Service Level Agreements for the Mudchute Farm and the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park.

He provided an overview of the request, including the benefits to the Borough of the unique green spaces especially as they remained open to the public during the pandemic. He also highlighted the work of the Mudchute Farm and the Cemetery Park with school children. It was also noted that the Council owned the land and paid a small grant and gained a lot from these organisations.

Councillor Leema Qureshi, (Scrutiny Lead, Resources) presented the Overview and Scrutiny's questions on this report seeking assurances regarding:

- Whether there were alternative methods available to deliver the projects? The availability of funding match funding for the projects. It was also questioned how success was measured?
- In response, it was confirmed that both the Cemetery Park and the Mudchute Farm had a very skilled work force, and offered a bespoke curriculum tailored to children and schools in particular. This provided a unique setting and 'forest classroom', allowing children to have access to green space. In some cases, this might be their only opportunity to do so. The Council were unable to provide this itself. The Cemetery Park was regarded as one of the largest woodland walks. Officers welcomed the opportunity to give children this ability.

In response to the report, the Committee welcomed the recommendations and felt that the Council should be proud of the facilities. They also thanked Mohammed Raja for his work on this.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. The Grants Determination Sub-Committee approve two Service Level Agreements for the Mudchute Farm (£31,000 per year from April 2021 to March 2024) and the Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park (£31,900 per year from April 2021 to March 2024).

## **6.3 Grant to Toynbee Hall to deliver community engagement and cultural activities on Wentworth Street as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme**

Anna Zucchelli (Heritage at Risk Project Officer), presented the report

This report proposes that £93,000 of grant funding from Historic England is awarded to Toynbee Hall to provide community engagement activities and the

cultural programme, as part of their High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) grant funding scheme.

Given the report sought to award the grant to Toynbee Hall, it was requested that this should be awarded as a grant rather than go through the procurement process.

Councillor Leema Qureshi, (Scrutiny Lead, Resources) presented the Overview and Scrutiny's questions on this report and the officers responses, which are summarised below:

- Has the request taken into account the impacts of Covid?
- It was confirmed that this had been taken into account. The funding would be for a 3 year period, involving an initial planning stage before the programme of activities were delivered.
- How would this funding be monitored to ensure it offered for value for money?
- It was noted that the Project Manager who would have oversight of the whole programme. It was also expected that Toynbee Hall would produce regular reports and set out how they were meeting their targets.
- How the project sought to accommodate the needs of local people?
- It was noted that the project should deliver a number of benefits and sought to achieve this through: community engagement, bringing people to the high street, which should support local businesses.
- Councillor Leema Qureshi felt happy for the project to go ahead as long as it supported the needs of local people

The Committee asked a number of questions and discussed the following points.

- The Consortium's decision to offer the grant to Toynbee Hall as the only organisation.
- It was confirmed that they had been meeting regularly and together they had decided that Toynbee Hall were best placed to lead on this project. Members welcomed the work of the Consortium and felt they carried out valuable work in the area. Details of the make up of the Consortium was outlined.
- It was also discussed whether the focus of the community engagement work could be more aimed at Covid recovery initiatives for the markets and the highstreets.
- Overall, taking into account the longer term benefits of the programme (that sought to upgrade the high street, through a wide range of participatory activities and works), Members supported the project, recognising the benefits of the plans in terms of helping the recovery of the high street.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to offer a grant £93,000 to Toynbee Hall (£31,000 each year for 2021, 2022 and 2023) for the delivery of community engagement & cultural activities on Wentworth Street, under appropriate terms as are agreed with the organisation in consultation with Legal Services.
- 2) Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into the grant agreement and any such other agreements required to effect the grant and the use of the grant as detailed in paragraph 1 of the report.

**6.4 Local Community Fund (LCF) Mitigation Actions Update**

David Freeman, (Policy and Strategy Manager), presented the progress report.

This report provides an update on the proposals for implementing the mitigating actions identified in the equality analysis of the Local Community Fund agreed at Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

It was noted that:

- The report showed that most of the actions had been completed or significant progress has been made in completing them.
- Projects had continued to operate. However organisations and activities had suffered due to the pandemic.
- The specific areas where Covid has had an impact are detailed in the report, along with actions proposed.

The Sub- Committee welcomed the report and felt that the report showed a satisfactory outcome in addressing needs.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Note the progress relating to the Local Community Fund Equality Analysis Action Plan (EAAP) and equality mitigation actions for services whose Mainstream Grants (MSG) funding came to an end on 30 September 2019 as set out in the report and appendices

**6.5 VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority**

Awo Ahmed, (Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer) presented the report.

The report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub- Committee. This included the Innovation Fund Update report

The Committee welcomed the report as it showed the breadth of the work the Council supported in the community and that it had an innovative programme. They thanked officers for all the work that had been done on this.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Note the update on funding awarded and available to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting
2. Note the Innovation Fund Report Update focusing on highlights of the programme since its inception.

**7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

There were none

The meeting ended at 6.30 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Candida Ronald  
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

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<b>Grants Determination Sub Committee Decision</b>  21 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme 2021</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) – Lead on Environment</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Abdul J Khan, Service Manager – Energy Sustainability & Private Sector Housing David Esdaile, Environmental Sustainability Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	A great place to live

## Executive Summary

Following the success of the second phase of the SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme we are now seeking approval to run another phase of the programme. The budget for the programme is £400,000. Following feedback and looking at trying to drive carbon emissions lower it is being proposed that changes are made to how this programme operates for this phase.

Firstly, we are proposing to provide 50% grants up to £10,000 to SMEs who carry out heat decarbonisation and renewable energy projects. We will continue to provide 50% funding up to £5,000 to SMEs for all other retrofit projects that see the installation of energy efficient technologies such as lighting upgrades and more efficient machinery.

## Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the grant funding of £400,000 to deliver the SME Energy Reduction Programme 2021.

2. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into grant agreements and make any associated decisions in order to distribute the funding in accordance with this report.
3. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to nominate a Council Officer or Officers as the Corporate Director Place shall determine to sign on behalf of the Council any grant agreements and or offer letters necessary for the fulfilment of this scheme.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The programme will provide grants to SMEs in Tower Hamlets to complete energy reduction projects that will not only reduce energy consumption but also the associated carbon emissions. It will result in cost reductions and an increased comfort in the working environment for the SMEs.
- 1.2 A lot of SMEs do not have enough budget available to carry out energy efficiency projects due to other costs that continue to rise. Therefore, by providing 50% grants it will enable SMEs to complete projects whilst ensuring they still have ownership over the project to ensure the best solutions and technologies are installed.
- 1.3 This programme can be a key part of a green recovery following the COVID19 pandemic. The grants from the programme will help SMEs to futureproof their premises by ensuring that they are installing the most energy efficient technologies that will reduce their carbon emissions whilst also helping their business grow by making them more attractive and reducing their energy costs.
- 1.4 Tower Hamlets produces the fourth highest level of carbon dioxide emissions of the 33 Local Authorities in Greater London. There are drivers to reduce these emissions including the Borough's target of becoming a Net Zero Carbon Borough by 2050 or earlier if possible. This programme will engage with SMEs that collectively with the rest of the industrial and commercial sector are responsible for 57% of the Borough's emissions.
- 1.5 S106 money from the Carbon Fund needs to spend funds on programmes that will reduce carbon emissions in the Borough. This is a key programme that will reduce carbon emissions across the Borough.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 There are currently no other grant programmes available to SMEs to support energy retrofit projects. Therefore, we are creating a programme that provides support to SMEs.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**



- 3.1 The programme will provide funding to SMEs in Tower Hamlets to complete energy reduction retrofit projects that will not only reduce energy consumption but also the associated carbon emissions and energy costs.
- 3.2 The budget being applied for this programme is £400,000. £360,000 of this is for the delivery of grants.
- 3.3 The Programme will have two grant streams. Firstly, 50% grants up to £10,000 will be available to SMEs who carry out heat decarbonisation and renewable energy projects. These are projects that replace gas boilers with a heat pump or a low carbon heating source and installing renewable technologies such as Solar PV.
- 3.4 As with the previous phases of the programme it will continue to provide 50% funding up to £5,000 to SMEs for all other projects that see the installation of energy efficient technologies such as lighting upgrades and more efficient machinery.
- 3.5 The reason for the higher grants for the heat decarbonisation and renewable energy projects is due to the higher cost of these measures. To encourage SMEs to take up these measures we are providing up to £10,000 so that we can provide up to 50% of the costs of these projects as they have an average cost of between £15,000 - £20,000. So, a £5,000 grant would not provide sufficient support to allow SMEs to install these measures.
- 3.6 The limit for a grant is for 50% of the project costs up to £10,000 or £5,000 depending on the funding stream. This is to ensure that we provide grants to as many SMEs as possible. It will also mean that SMEs will still have ownership over the project by having to provide 50% of the costs and will ensure that the most suitable technologies and the best value for money is sought for each project.
- 3.7 Grants are available to any SME in the Borough that meet the following criteria
- No more than 250 employees;
  - Annual turnover not in excess of £25m;
  - And are not more than 25% owned by an entity which does not meet the criteria.
  - The premises where the measures will be installed must be in Tower Hamlets.
- 3.8 There will be a window for applications when the programme commences so that all SMEs have an equal opportunity to apply in case there is a high demand for grants. The application window will be for 4 weeks as those looking at carrying out heating and renewable projects will need longer to put together their application.
- 3.9 The following projects will be eligible for funding from the programme;

- Energy reduction projects such as lighting, heat decarbonisation, insulation and more efficient machinery.
  - Renewable technologies.
  - Any other project which will result in significant energy reduction will be considered.
- 3.10 Gas boilers will not be eligible for funding. This is because the programme has a funding stream dedicated to decarbonising heat. Therefore, funding gas boilers would not be in line with this.
- 3.11 To ensure applications are accurate a pre-verification visit is carried out to each SME once their application has been submitted to ensure that the current installation within the premises is as described and that the proposed project will achieve the desired outcome.
- 3.12 It will be ensured by the Sustainable Development Team that no funding will be released for any project until there is sufficient evidence that the agreed project has been completed and the SME has received an invoice for the works. This includes a verification visit being carried out to ensure the works are completed as per the application form and the submitted invoice.
- 3.13 Due to the current COVID19 lockdown restrictions members of the Sustainable Development Team are currently working from home permanently and therefore the pre-verification and verification visits cannot be carried out in person. Instead SMEs will be required to submit photos showing the premises before the works, during the works and of the completed installed works. This method was used to allow SMEs to receive their grants in Phases 1&2 of the programme after the lockdown restrictions came into place and it was successful in ensuring works were completed per the application and submitted invoice.
- 3.14 The projects are to be delivered by a supplier that the SME will procure. This ensures that each SME will be able to procure the supplier that meets the criteria of their project as each project will be unique to that SME.
- 3.15 The first two phases of the programme have achieved the following to date;
- 87 SMEs awarded grants.
  - £403,621 of grant funding awarded which have supported projects totalling £932,654. This means overall grants have paid on average 43% towards projects.
  - Projected carbon emission savings of 250 tonnes this is being achieved at £1,614 a tonne which is below our carbon offset price of £2,850 a tonne.
- 3.16 Below is a case study of a completed project.

#### **Case Study – River Habitat Estate Agents**

River Habitat Estate Agents are located on Commercial Road in Limehouse. They wanted to install solar panels on the roof of their office so that they could start generating some of their own electricity and reduce their reliance on the

grid. There was a significant cost to carrying out this project. So River Habitat applied for a grant from the SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme.

River Habitat completed the application form and the application was assessed by a Grants Panel who approved the application to provide a grant of £4,005. After securing the necessary planning permission to install the panels on the roof the project went ahead, and the panels were installed.

River Habitat are happy with the completed project which saw 11 panels installed which will now generate electricity for the office and will reduce their demand for electricity from the grid. It is projected that the project will reduce the electricity demand of the office by 2,638 kWh a year which is a carbon emission reduction of 1.5tCO<sub>2</sub>.

As part of the installation River Habitat have access to a portal which monitors the performance of the panels. This shows you how much energy is being produced that day, month and over its lifetime. The portal also allows you to see how much energy each individual panel is producing. This will allow for effective monitoring to ensure that the panels are performing as expected.

River Habitat are happy with the completed project and the support of the grant from the SME Energy Improvement Grants Programme as it would have not been possible without the support of the grant.

- 3.17 The decisions on awarding funding to SMEs will follow the process set out in the Carbon Offsetting Solutions Study that was adopted by Cabinet in January 2016. This will be made at a minuted selection panel meeting which will assess and decide on each application on the criteria set above and below. This panel will decide which projects to allocate funding to. The 3 key criteria for the allocation of funds will be:
1. CARBON: carbon savings and their associated cost efficiency;
  2. ADDITIONALITY: it is essential that carbon savings are truly additional and would not happen without funding.
  3. COMMUNITY BENEFITS: other benefits for the community beyond carbon (e.g. fuel poverty, job creation, improved community facilities, etc.) will be seen as a plus by the Council.
- 3.18 All projects that are delivered through the award of funding from this programme will be the responsibility of the SME. Should any maintenance or costs be incurred at a later date on the technologies installed then that cost will be the responsibility of the SME.
- 3.19 The proposals are in accordance with the Carbon Offsetting Solutions Study approved at Cabinet in January 2016 which was developed to ensure clarity on how funds secured through S106 carbon offsetting finances will be allocated, and to provide transparency in the identification of projects to be delivered

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 An Equality Analysis Quality Assurance checklist has been completed for the programme to address equality implications arising from the proposal.
- 4.2 As a result of performing the checklist the programme does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share Protected Characteristics and no further actions are recommended

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

#### **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 This report is seeking approval to provide funding to SME's in Tower Hamlets to complete energy reduction retrofit projects that will not only reduce energy consumption but also the associated carbon emissions and costs.
- 6.2 SME's can apply for grant funding for up to 50% and a maximum of £10,000 to carry out heat decarbonisation and renewable energy projects and 50% funding up to £5,000 for all other retrofit projects that see the installation of energy efficient technologies such as lighting upgrades and more efficient machinery. This represents the third phase of the energy improvement grant programme for which the Council is providing funding of £400,000.
- 6.3 This funding is coming from s106 money from the carbon fund which must be used to fund projects that will reduce carbon emissions in the Borough. The grant programme will therefore not directly impact on the revenue budget of the Council. In total £5.120m of s106 money has been ringfenced within the carbon fund. The approval of this scheme would take spend against this fund to £3.976m

#### **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to make the grants referred to in this report.

- 7.2 The Council will continue to apply the same pre-published evaluation criteria to the allocation of the grant. This will ensure that the grant funds are both distributed fairly and the merits of each scheme are evaluated to assist with the demonstration of Best Value.
- 7.3 Each grant will be supported by a grant agreement which allows the Council to evaluate the use of the grant money and to ensure that it is used for the purposes stated in the application. This also assists the Council to demonstrate compliance with its Best Value duty.
- 7.4 There are no legal implications arising from the Equality Act 2010 under this report
- 

### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

- NONE

#### **Appendices**

- NONE

#### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE

#### **Officer contact details for documents:**

David Esdaile  
Environmental Sustainability Officer  
0207 364 6649

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<b>Grants Determination Sub Committee Decision</b>  21 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Schools Energy Retrofit Programme 2021</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) – Lead on Environment</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Abdul J Khan, Service Manager – Energy Sustainability & Private Sector Housing David Esdaile, Environmental Sustainability Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All Wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	N/A
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A great place to live</b>

## Executive Summary

This programme will support schools across the Borough with 100% funding from the Carbon Fund to carry out energy retrofit projects. The programme will see funding provided to install energy efficient measures into schools that will reduce their energy consumption, carbon emissions and energy costs.

The budget for the project is £250,000. This is the third phase of this programme after the successful delivery of the previous two phases. As with the previous phases the maximum amount available to each school is £30,000 to ensure at least 8 schools are supported. Schools who have received a grant in the previous phases will not be eligible for a grant in this phase.

## Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the grant funding of £250,000 to deliver the Schools Energy Retrofit Programme 2021.
2. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into grant agreements and make any associated decisions in order to distribute the funding in

accordance with this report.

3. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to nominate a Council Officer or Officers as the Corporate Director Place shall determine to sign on behalf of the Council any grant agreements and or offer letters necessary for the fulfilment of this scheme.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The project will provide funding to schools in Tower Hamlets to complete energy reduction retrofit projects that will not only reduce energy consumption but also the associated carbon emissions and result in cost reduction and an increased comfort and working environment within the schools. Most schools have little or no budget available to fund such projects and need funding support to carry out these works as they would not otherwise happen
- 1.2 Tower Hamlets produces the fourth highest level of total carbon dioxide emissions of the 33 Local Authorities in Greater London. There are significant drivers to reduce carbon emissions, including the Borough's target of delivering a net zero carbon Borough by 2050. This project will engage with schools that are among the higher emitters in the Borough and work to cut their carbon emissions.
- 1.3 S106 money from the Carbon Offset Fund needs to spend funds on projects that will reduce carbon emissions in the Borough. This is part of a programme of projects to reduce carbon emissions across the Borough.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The only other funding stream available to schools is a Salix Finance loan. Even though these loans are interest free schools are still reluctant to get a loan as they fear that possible future budget cuts will mean the loan repayments become an added cost and not being funded from energy cost savings. Also, Salix loans have to be repaid in 8 years which for some projects, especially those involving heating is not possible due to having a longer return on investment. This is because the low energy charges schools have to pay on the Council's energy contract mean the return on investment is longer, but this does not take away from the good energy and carbon savings that projects will achieve.

## **3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The budget being applied for this programme is £250,000. The limit for an application is £30,000. This is to ensure that at least 8 schools receive funding and some projects will be smaller meaning 8-10 schools should receive funding.



- 3.2 The funding is available to all schools in the Borough, including Voluntary-aided schools, free schools, academies as well as the schools owned by the Council. By making the funding available to all schools it ensures all carbon reduction opportunities will be considered and allow the funding to achieve the highest carbon reduction possible.
- 3.3 To ensure fairness to smaller schools that may not have the resources of bigger schools to apply quickly, there will be a window for schools to submit an expression of interest in the funding. This expression of interest will allow schools to submit an outline of what they would like to do without having to put together lots of technical information. Once this window has closed the expression of interests will be assessed and those projects that will achieve the highest percentage carbon saving based on the emissions of the technology being replaced, their value for money for the carbon saving and the return on investment of the project will be given preference and the Sustainable Development Team will work with schools that need support to submit a full application. This ensures the programme achieves the maximum carbon reduction possible whilst also making it fair for all schools that want to submit an application.
- 3.4 The following energy efficiency & renewable technologies that are eligible for a grant are:
- Lighting upgrades
  - Air conditioning improvements
  - Building Management Systems
  - Controls
  - Low carbon heating projects, such as heat pumps.
  - Insulation
  - Renewable technologies
- 3.5 Gas boilers will not be eligible for funding. This is because to meet the aim of becoming a Net Zero Borough we need to move away from gas boilers to decarbonise heating. Therefore, funding gas boilers would not be in line with this aim so will not be funded.
- 3.6 It will be ensured by the Sustainable Development Team that no funding will be released to any school for any of the proposed projects until sufficient evidence has been provided that the project will achieve an acceptable carbon reduction. This will involve schools completing a Carbon Offsetting Proforma to identify how the project will result in a reduction of carbon emissions. This will ensure that the fund will not be used for maintenance projects that have no energy or carbon reduction benefit as support for these types of projects is available from Children's Services Capital Programme.
- 3.8 The projects are to be delivered by a supplier that the school will procure. This will ensure that each school will be able to procure the supplier that meets the criteria of their project as each project will involve the installation of different energy efficient technologies. Schools will be encouraged to use suppliers

based in Tower Hamlets where possible as in line with the Council's procurement policy. However, if schools would like to use the Council's capital programme contract to complete their project then they are able to do so. As Voluntary-aided schools, free schools and academies are not under any jurisdiction from the Council they will have to procure their own projects.

3.9 Below is a summary of the savings achieved by the schools in the first two phases of this project. We would expect similar results for this phase.

	Ward	Funding	CO2 Reduction (tCO2)	kWh Saving	Annual School Cost Saving
Olga Primary	Bow West	£ 30,000.00	21.53	61,000	£ 6,000.00
Osmani Primary	Spitalfields & Banglatown	£ 30,000.00	21.71	56,542	£ 7,690.00
Cubitt Town Infants	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	£ 30,000.00	12.2	34,707	£ 3,788.70
Cubitt Town Juniors	Blackwall & Cubitt Town	£ 30,000.00	13.5	38,463	£ 4,198.64
Lansbury Lawrence	Lansbury	£ 30,000.00	30.89	78,585	£ 8,644.00
Lawdale Juniors	St Peters	£ 15,364.00	20	34,891	£ 3,716.94
Oaklands	St Peters	£ 28,239.98	26.96	50,868	£ 6,104.48
Arnhem Wharf	Canary Wharf	£ 26,396.02	14.68	38,231	£ 3,103.00
Manorfield Primary	Lansbury	£ 30,000.00	55	81,000	£ 4,400.00
Morpeth	Bethnal Green	£ 30,000.00	24.8	87,644	£ 14,150.00
Thomas Buxton	Spitalfields & Banglatown	£ 30,000.00	21.69	70,752	£ 9,622.27
St Saviours C. E	Lansbury	£ 13,541.22	5.76	18,791	£ 2,555.63
Old Church Nursery	Stepney Green	£ 25,337.62	12.56	23,974	£ 3,563.98
Redlands	Stepney Green	£ 30,000.00	tbc		
Globe	Bethnal Green	£ 30,000.00	10.8	42,290	£ 6,286.62
Smithy Street	Stepney Green	£ 30,000.00	tbc		
<b>Total</b>		<b>£ 469,308.84</b>	<b>292.08</b>	<b>717,738</b>	<b>£ 83,824.26</b>

The projects at Redlands & Smithy Street are still being developed.

**Table 1:** Summary of projects funded by the Schools Energy Retrofit Programme

3.10 The selection of projects will be based on the schools applying through a Carbon Offsetting proforma and following the below process.

1. Schools to complete and submit an expression of interest and supporting evidence in a three-week window.
2. Applications are assessed by the Sustainable Development Team in consultation with Children's Services. Projects that will achieve the highest carbon reduction based on the old technology being replaced, their value for money for the carbon saving and the return on investment of the project will be supported to complete a full application to go before the Selection Panel.
3. The Selection Panel will assess and decide on applications.
4. Delivery time scales will be agreed with schools and when the funding

- will be released to them.
5. School to submit evidence that the project has been completed and costs paid as per the approved application.
  6. Projects will be monitored 12 months after completion to ensure projected savings are being achieved. For most schools this will be straightforward as many schools are on the Council energy contract and we have access to their consumption data. For the schools that are not they will be required to provide utility bills to allow monitoring to be completed.
  7. If there is funding still available after the initial application window then schools will be invited again to submit applications.
- 3.11 No particular type of project or energy efficient technology will be prioritised as the aim of this programme is to reduce carbon emissions by any means that is appropriate. However larger infrastructure projects or projects that are maintenance projects rather than about proactive energy reduction will not be considered. Any projects of this nature should engage with Children Services and their Capital Delivery Programme.
- 3.12 The decisions on awarding funding to schools will follow the process set out in the Carbon Offsetting Solutions Study that was adopted by Cabinet in January 2016. This will be made at minuted selection panel meeting which will assess and decide on each application on the criteria set above and below. The Panel will be made up of the Sustainable Development Service Manager, representative(s) from Children's Services, Sustainable Development Team Leader and the Environmental Sustainability Officer. This panel will decide which projects to allocate funding to. The 3 key criteria for the allocation of funds will be:
1. CARBON: carbon savings and their associated cost efficiency.
  2. ADDITIONALITY: it is essential that carbon savings are truly additional and would not happen without funding.
  3. COMMUNITY BENEFITS: other benefits for the community beyond carbon (e.g. fuel poverty, job creation, improved community facilities, etc.) will be seen as a plus by the Council.
- 3.13 All projects that are delivered through the award of funding from this programme will be the responsibility of the School. Should any maintenance or costs be incurred at a later date on the technologies installed then that cost will be the responsibility of the school.
- 3.14 The proposals are in accordance with the Carbon Offsetting Solutions Study approved at Cabinet in January 2016 which was developed to ensure clarity on how funds secured through S106 carbon offsetting finances will be allocated, and to provide transparency in the identification of projects to be delivered.

#### **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 An Equality Analysis Quality Assurance checklist has been completed for the programme to address equality implications arising from the proposal.
- 4.2 As a result of performing the checklist the programme does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share Protected Characteristics and no further actions are recommended.

#### **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
  - Consultations,
  - Environmental (including air quality),
  - Risk Management,
  - Crime Reduction,
  - Safeguarding.
- 5.2 This proposal will provide S106 funding from the Carbon Offset Fund to achieve carbon emission reductions that it has been set up to achieve. The open application nature of the programme and the assessment of applications will ensure that projects that achieve the highest carbon reductions for the best value of money will be approved meaning that the maximum carbon reductions possible will be achieved whilst achieving best value from the Carbon Offset Fund.
- 5.3 It will be ensured that no funding will be released to any school for any of the proposed projects until sufficient evidence has been provided that the project will achieve an acceptable carbon reduction. This will involve schools providing evidence to identify how the project will result in a reduction of carbon emissions. This will ensure that the fund will not be used for maintenance projects that have no energy or carbon reduction outcomes.
- 5.4 The funding for the projects will be released to the schools and not the contractor who complete the works. This is to ensure that projects are completed to the satisfaction of the school before any money is paid.
- 5.5 All projects that are delivered through the award of funding from this programme will be the responsibility of the School. Should any maintenance costs be incurred at a later date then that cost will be the responsibility of the school.
- 5.6 Tower Hamlets produces the fourth highest level of total carbon emissions of the 33 Local Authorities in Greater London. The proposals will contribute to

delivering CO2 emission reductions in the Borough as well as reducing fuel costs for schools and improving the working environment in these schools.

- 5.7 The programme will help to contribute to the community plan objective of 'a great place to live'. This programme will make Tower Hamlets 'greener' by reducing CO2 emissions and it will also improve buildings that are not only used as schools but also used by the community.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 Funding of £250k is required to be set aside for issuing grants to deliver the schools energy retrofit programme for 2021. This represents the third phase of this programme and should benefit 8-10 individual projects.
- 6.2 Funding will be from s106 income that has been received by the Council and will therefore represent a net nil impact on the Council's baseline budget. This s106 funding forms part of the carbon offset fund which is ringfenced for projects reducing carbon emissions within the Borough.
- 6.3 In January 2016 Cabinet approved the setup of a carbon reduction fund and these grants form part of a package of schemes from this fund totalling £1.7m.
- 6.4 Applications for individual grants are restricted to a maximum of £30k per scheme, with this phase of the programme capped at eight to ten to ensure spend remains within the funding set aside.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to make the grants referred to in this report.
- 7.2 The Council will continue to apply the same pre-published evaluation criteria to the allocation of the grant. This will ensure that the grant funds are both distributed fairly and the merits of each scheme are evaluated to assist with the demonstration of Best Value.
- 7.3 Each grant will be supported by a grant agreement which allows the Council to evaluate the use of the grant money and to ensure that it is used for the purposes stated in the application. This also assists the Council to demonstrate compliance with its Best Value duty.

There are no legal implications arising from the Equality Act 2010 under this report

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

**Appendices**

- Equality Analysis Quality Assurance checklist

**Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**


- NONE

**Officer contact details for documents:**

David Esdaile

Environmental Sustainability Officer

Ext: 6649

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Grants Determination Sub Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">21<sup>st</sup> April 2021</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Karen Swift</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted or Exempt]</p>
<p>Changes to Grant Funding to Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT)</p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor [Name], Cabinet Member for [Post]</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Imelda Burke
<b>Wards affected</b>	St Dunstons
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	Priority One

## Executive Summary

This report seeks approval for an amendment to the GDSC report of January 2019 which sought approval of £809k to support the Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT) to manage the Harford St Centre and deliver socio-economic benefit to the Ocean estate as described in the 2019 approval attached. An additional £61k was included as contingency and approved in order that ORT could meet rental payments for the Centre if they did not meet the criteria for the council's 80% rent reduction programme. ORT has already been granted £80k from the approved agreement. This leaves the outstanding amount from the agreement at (£809k - £80k = £729k).

This report seeks to terminate the council's and ORT's funding arrangement with another one-off payment of £80k from the HRA/shop income to ORT. The HRA has provided grant payments to support the Trust since it's inception.

## **Recommendations:**

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. To agree an amendment to the January 2019 approval of a three-year grant funding to ORT.
2. The amendment is for a one-off payment of £80k derived from shop income on Ben Jonson Rd. If agreed this would then end any future funding from the retail unit income to the ORT. This sum is requested from the £809k originally approved in January 2019, minus a sum of £80k already granted for 2019/2020 (as above).
3. The ground rent income will not be affected and will continue to be collected by the Council and transported annually to ORT first quarter of each year in line with the original Ocean Estate development agreement. The year 2019/2020 ground rents totalled £118k. This is an ongoing income for ORT and will not be affected by ending the recommendation of this report.

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The reduction of income from the Ben Jonson Rd shops has had an impact on what the council can justify in grant payments to ORT. As previously stated, the income for the Trust has come from the shop units/HRA; the recommendation is to end this arrangement.
- 1.2 The council and the ORT have met three times to discuss the change. The mayor was present at one meeting where the decision was relayed. The decision was met with disappointment but there was an understanding that this needed to happen.
- 1.3 The Trust understand that they will continue to receive ground rent payments. These are not considered grant payments; they are derived from the leasehold units on the Ocean estate. This is documented within the individual lease agreements.
- 1.4 In summary detailed below is that as of 2021/2022 ORT will receive:
  1. A one-off payment of £80k thus ending the original agreement of £809k (having already received £80k for 2019/2020) for three years. The balance of income from the shops will continue to cover the running costs of the Harford St Community Centre and considers the reduced income from the new retail units which is not enough to support the continuation of Trust activities.
  2. The ongoing income from the ground rents from the leasehold units on the Ocean estate which totalled £118k 2020/2021 and is expected to go up by at £27k from newer units plus %RPI on existing ground rent income in 2021/2022.



3. The future income due to ORT for 2022/2023 onwards is the ground rent payment only.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Facilities Management (FM): this option will continue with the HRA subsidising the Centre. It is recognised that subsidy from the shop income will still be needed to cover running costs but that economies of scale from managing the centre within the council will benefit the Centre as a resource for the community. The council is focussed on keeping the Centre as a community facility and reducing the impact of reduction of ORT funding across the Ocean estate.
- 2.2 Other third sector groups could be considered but would have to go through a tendering process. The FM option is the most expedient in monetary and time terms.
- 2.3 Competitive tendering for organisations not within the borough; this would entail a more in-depth tendering/advertising exercise which would not be in keeping with a centre for local and community delivery.

## **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 This report is an amendment of the January 2019 GDSC approval for funding for ORT. The original approval was for £809k plus contingency of £61k. The funding agreement encompassed the three-year lease of management of the Harford St Community Centre and project support of ORT for socio-economic grant funding to local groups.
- 3.2 The previous approval is attached for reference; the council would like to amend this inline with reduced income from the new Ben Jonson Rd retail income that was originally earmarked to support the Trust.
- 3.3 The three-year grant payment stated above comprised of:
  1. New retail units - £528k
  2. Existing units - £281k
  3. Totalling £809k
  - Which then comprised:
  4. Grant to ORT of £80k for 2019/2020
  5. Totalling £729k

The council is looking for approval to cease this arrangement. The anticipated rental income from the new retail units has not yet been realised and it may take some time to see this flow. The impact of shop closures has led to delays with leasing the remaining units.

- 3.4 The existing shop income will continue to subsidise the running of the Harford Community Centre, circa £110k. This ensures that the Centre is not at risk of being closed to the community in normal times. These funds were part of the original funding application for ORT to run Harford St but will now be redirected to FM.
- 3.5 The £80k sought through this application will support the 2021/2022 delivery of community grants. This will be monitored through ORT board report updates as has happened each year since they commenced.
- 3.6 The ORT is the legacy group for the New Deal for Communities which finished in 2011. The Trust has ground rent funding guarantees enshrined within the leasehold agreements for the newbuild properties on the Ocean estate. This is not grant funding and the Trust is entitled to this so long as the leasehold agreements on the Ocean estate exist as they are.
- 3.7 The unit ground rent charge was £250p.a. per unit, with a rise of %RPI each year. The income totalled circa £118k in 2020/21.
- 3.8 There will be further income to add to this in 2021/22 as new units from the Aston St development (a much later Ocean development) are added to the ground rent income to the Trust. This is currently estimated to be £27k but to be confirmed later this year.
- 3.9 The ORT will restructure their organisation according to the adjusted funding from the council. Their core objectives of socio-economic output on the Ocean estate will not change; this is written into the Ocean leaseholder agreements; however, ORT may consider adjusting funding application limit received from community organisations (i.e. the community grants) to suit their revised income.
- 3.10 The continuing occupation of the first floor of Harford St by the ORT/Stepney Life Centre (SLC) Partnership is being negotiated through Asset Management. SLC has continued to adapt and deliver, particularly in times of lockdown, for women in the locality and across the borough. This report does not imply any change to the current situation for SLC.

#### **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The ORT continues to receive ground rent payments with the associated obligation of Ocean residents being the beneficiaries of those funds. The reduced funding will mean reduced delivery, but it is expected that their resources will continue to benefit residents of the Ocean, which in turn will mitigate against any equality implications.
- 4.2 Reducing the funding necessary for ORT to manage the Harford St Centre will help to take pressure off council funding; this will allow the centre to continue to be accessible to the wider community once Facilities Management take over the running of the centre.

- 4.3 [Report authors should identify from analysis and engagement how the proposals will address equality implications arising from the proposal.

## **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no statutory implications as a result of this document.

## **6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 On 16 January 2019 the Grants Determination Sub-Committee approved funding totalling £889,000 to the Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT) as follows:

2018/19	£80,000
2019/20 to 2021/22	£809,000

- 6.2 This funding is being met from rental income generated from shops on the north side of Ben Jonson Road as follows:

side	2018/19	£80,000 - contribution from the rental income from shops on the south
	2019/20	£528,000 - the full rental income from the new shops on the north side
	2020/21	£281,000 - contribution from the rental income from shops on the south side

- 6.3 The ORT currently occupies Council premises at Harford Street under the terms of a licence that was approved in April 2015. The Trust pays a market rent for the property to the Council from its own resources which are in part dependent upon this Council grant funding. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019, the ORT entered into a three year lease with the Council to fully manage the Harford Street Centre.
- 6.4 This report proposes to terminate the council's and ORT's funding arrangement with a further one-off payment of £80k from the HRA/shop income to ORT.
- 6.5 If approved the rents from the shops at Ben Johnson Road will be retained by the Council and will benefit the Housing Revenue Account. There will be no benefit to the General Fund.
- 6.6 ORT will continue to receive the ground rent income which will continue to be collected by the Council and transported annually to ORT first quarter of each year in line with the original Ocean Estate development agreement. For the financial year 2019/2020 ground rents totalled £118k.

## **7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to undertake the activity described in this report.

- 7.2 Prior to making the change the Council will undertake an Equalities Assessment to ensure that the changes referred to in this report do not have a disproportionate impact on people who have a protected characteristic. In the event that the assessment shows that people with a protected characteristic are disproportionately affected, the Council will undertake such further necessary action as is required to redress the imbalance.
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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- GDSC January 2019

### **Appendices**


- NONE

### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.
- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- NONE

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

Imelda Burke ext 2565 or [Imelda.burke@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:Imelda.burke@towerhamlets.gov.uk)

<p align="center"><b>Grants Determination (Cabinet)</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Sub-Committee</b></p> <p align="center"><b>16<sup>th</sup> January, 2019</b></p>	 <p align="center"><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Acting Corporate Director of Place</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p align="center"><b>Ocean Regeneration Trust / Harford Street Community Centre: grant funding 2018 - 2022</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Rachel Blake</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Niall McGowan – Housing Regeneration Manager Imelda Burke – Regeneration Officer Alan McCarthy - Interim Head of Asset Management
<b>Wards affected</b>	St Dunstons
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	27/11/18
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	N/A
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates Grants Determination Sub-Committee on the ongoing work of Ocean Regeneration Trust (ORT) in bringing socio-economic improvements and investment into the Ocean area. ORT was set up in accordance with New Deal for Communities (NDC) succession and legacy requirements as a vehicle for ongoing local regeneration. The Council retains overview via a seat on ORT's Board and close officer involvement.
- 1.2 The report requests:
  - 1.2.1 allocation of £80,000 grant to ORT for 2018/19, funded as agreed in previous years by an interim provision of revenue from the existing shops on the south side of Ben Jonson Road (Nos 38-82 even), and supplemented by revenue from the new retail units on the north side of Ben Jonson Road (Nos 41-73 odd) which is now coming on-stream;
  - 1.2.2 allocation of £809,000 grant to ORT for the period 2019 – 2022, comprising £528,000 projected revenue from the new retail units on the north side of Ben Jonson Road and £281,000 from existing shop units on the south side of Ben Jonson Rd: this grant will support ORT's ongoing projects and core activities for this period, and specifically will enable ORT to take on a 3 year lease from the Council to manage the Harford Street Community Centre.
  - 1.2.3 allocate a further provisional grant of £61,000 as a contingency should ORT not be eligible for the anticipated 80% community rent discount, as explained in the report.

- 1.3 It has been hoped ORT could take a lease of the Community Centre and manage it to achieve the council's long-term aspirations. ORT is well-established, has sound governance including Council participation and a remit to support regeneration legacy in the Ocean area. This approach, though expensive initially, is arguably cost-efficient as ORT is already part-funded by the Council and would direct a proportion of the proposed grant towards the running of the Centre.

#### **Decision Type**

<b>Key Decision?</b>	<b>Urgent Decision?</b>	<b>Exempt from Call-In?</b>	<b>Restricted Report or Partially Restricted (e.g. appendix)?</b>
No	No	No	No

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to authorise the Acting Corporate Director of Place to:
- 2.1.1 pay ORT £80,000 grant for 2018/19, as explained in the report, funded by a combination of revenues from the existing shops on the south side of Ben Jonson Road (Nos 38-82 even), and as available from the new retail units on the north side of Ben Jonson Road (Nos 41-73 odd), to support ORT's ongoing projects and core activities for the current financial year;
- 2.1.2 pay ORT grant in the sum of £809,000 for the period 2019 – 2022, comprising £528,000 projected revenue from the new retail units on the north side of Ben Jonson Road and £281,000 from existing shop units on the south side of Ben Jonson Rd, as set out in the report, to support ORT's ongoing projects and core activities for this period, and to enable ORT to take on a 3 year lease from the Council to manage the Harford Street Community Centre;
- 2.1.3 allocate a further provisional grant of £61,000 as a contingency should ORT not be eligible for the anticipated 80% community rent discount, as explained in the report;
- 2.1.4 note the arrangements for transitional council officer support and monitoring set out in para. 7.14.

## **3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 The first of these grants (£80,000) will enable ORT to meet its commitments for 2018/19 to deliver socio-economic improvements and investment into the Ocean Estate area. It will comprise income from both the existing and new shops on Ben Jonson Road.
- 3.2 Secondly, the grant requested for 2019 – 2022 (£809,000), will formalise funding arrangements for ORT that have long been envisaged, including some £528,000 income from the council's new shop units on Ben Jonson Rd to supplement ORT's only other income stream of residential ground rents committed by the council's regeneration partners in the area (L&Q and Bellway): this Council grant will enable ORT to continue its valued programme of community projects for the next 3 years.
- 3.3 Thirdly, the continued provision as grant during 2019 – 2022 of rental income from the existing shops (£281,000) will help underwrite the estimated costs and associated risks

for ORT in agreeing to take on a lease of the Community Centre, in order to manage and develop it with greater focus for the needs of the local community.

- 3.4 As explained below, the Council has long-committed to make available to ORT the income from the new shops in Ben Jonson Road: the provisions in this report effectively direct part of that revenue – via ORT's management role – to help fund and improve the Community Centre, creating the potential for more effective management by a local community organisation and relatively better value for the council.
- 3.5 However ORT would need to gear itself up to run a community centre and can only enter into the proposed lease if the Council gives funding certainty for the 3 year period which the lease covers, otherwise ORT's core community programmes could be put at risk.
- 3.6 The proposals in this report, alongside provisions in the lease, will remove much of the risk and should enable ORT to enter into the agreement.
- 3.7 Although the sums requested are significant – i.e. because they fund a 3 year period - this approach will essentially utilise and redirect funds from existing shops revenue that the Council would have to spend anyway, if it continues to manage the Harford Centre itself.
- 3.8 The decisions requested will direct Council (retail units) revenue to a third party community organisation. On balance this is considered to represent good value as community needs will be better addressed by the new management arrangements; and the direct costs to the Council for Harford Centre will be roughly equivalent to the present, but with the potential to reduce the operating deficit in the longer term if ORT makes a success of this initiative.
- 3.9 The grant to ORT will fund projects primarily benefitting residents from St Dunstons wards; it will also support and develop the Harford Centre which similarly helps to meet the needs of residents predominantly from this ward, but also from other nearby wards.

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The decisions requested will direct Council revenue (from specific local retail units) as grants to a third party community organisation operating in the Ocean area to provide charitable regeneration legacy funding to the local community. ORT's operations fulfil commitments made by the Council to central government when it obtained NDC funding for the regeneration.
- 4.2 The principle of supporting ORT through this type of grant represents the council's contribution to legacy funding for the area, alongside an ongoing contractual contribution made year on year by the council's regeneration partners in the area, L&Q and Bellway.
- 4.3 ORT is well-established and has committed to funding specific community projects in the current financial year. A failure to provide the proposed grant for 2018/19 as set out in Recommendation 2.1.1 would leave the organisation in financial difficulty and render it unable to retain a prudent reserve or to plan to provide ongoing support to the projects which depend on it in 2019/20. The diverse projects would be jeopardised in Quarter 4 negatively impacting on their beneficiaries. There is no reasonable alternative other than for the Council to provide this grant.
- 4.4 In terms of the grant requested in Recommendation 2.1.2 which will both support ORT's activities and enable it to enter into a lease to manage Harford Community

Centre by underwriting the anticipated operational deficit, the alternative would be for the Council to not enter into the lease for the premises with ORT.

- 4.5 In this circumstance the Council would need to decide how much grant it would wish to give to ORT solely for its proposed core activities for 2019/20, or for a longer period to enable better planning, acknowledging that the revenue from the new shop units on the north side of Ben Jonson Road (Nos 41-73 odd) has always been intended to fund the council's ongoing legacy commitment. Again any funding uncertainty for ORT would be likely to impact negatively on its project delivery and the recipients of the services it funds via grant.
- 4.6 Based on its present business plan for its core activities ORT would require Council grant of at least £125,000 in 2019/20 to support its envisaged project programme and running costs of c. £250,000 (taking into account its ground rents income stream of £118,000 next year). Consideration would also need to be given to funding for future years so ORT's Board could consider whether it should seek to expand its community activities after 2019/20 or simply continue to support its existing projects.
- 4.7 Whilst the Council by not entering into the lease for the Centre would no longer need to include in the grant some £281,000 of shops revenue to subsidise the operational deficit via ORT, such a deficit would still most likely exist and the Council would need to make a similar call on this funding, or other Council resources, to address this, whilst it determined how best to resolve the management hiatus for the Centre. There seems little to be gained in the medium term by this course of action if the Council remains committed to linking ORT to the running of the Centre, to achieve the benefits which should accrue from this.

## **5. OCEAN REGENERATION TRUST (ORT)**

- 5.1 ORT was set up in 2008 as a regeneration legacy charity, fulfilling an Ocean NDC commitment. The Council is represented on its Board, which officers also attend, along with local residents, independent members and L&Q as the Council's regeneration partner and a major landlord in the area.
- 5.2 ORT's primary role is to support projects furthering socio-economic benefits for residents of the former Ocean NDC area. It has been delivering these core activities in line with the council's NDC Succession Strategy and has become a key stakeholder in the community.
- 5.3 In 2016 the Ocean and Limehouse Community Review identified a need for greater community capacity and involvement to address gaps in services and provide better integration and stronger governance, and a key role for ORT. Concerns included -
  - Persistent low employment levels, particularly for women and some ethnic minorities;
  - High levels of child poverty and the impact of welfare benefit changes on an already deprived community;
  - Local people priced out by spiralling housing prices and the danger of a polarised community;
  - Low levels of health and life expectancy;
  - Growth and development impacting on local infrastructure and services;
  - The need to be vigilant and tackle the potential for radicalisation and extremism; and
  - The impacts of austerity and public sector cuts.



- 5.4 Previous reports have secured necessary grant funding for ORT and have enabled it to sub-let the first floor of the Community Centre from the council; ORT has recently entered into a further 3 year lease to be based at the Centre and to continue running the Stepney Life Centre in partnership with City Gateway.

## **5.5 ORT Funding**

For the first three years of its operations ORT was funded by £300,000 NDC monies. Subsequently the Council has planned for ORT's long-term funding to come from two reliable sources:

- 5.5.1 ground rents from new residential properties developed as part of the regeneration (a contractual provision with L&Q / Bellway);
- 5.5.2 income from the new retail units (Nos 41-73 odd) on the north side of Ben Jonson Rd, which were constructed and fitted out to reinvest in the community via ORT.
- 5.6 The ground rents (which are not a discretionary grant) are paid annually to ORT via the Council, which collects them from L&Q and Bellway. Increasing annually in line with RPI, this income is projected to be c. £118,000 in 2019/20, rising to c. £148,000 by 2021/22, as the sales from the second phase of L&Q's Ocean new-build complete.
- 5.7 However the income stream from the council-owned shops, which has previously been agreed for ORT – see 5.12 and 7.7.1 below - must be approved and paid as a Council grant. Therefore annual Council grants to ORT of c.£80,000 from shop rental income (on the south side of Ben Jonson Rd) have been agreed in recent years, as an interim measure to cover a short-fall whilst ground rents were accruing and in lieu of the income from the new retail units on the north side of Ben Jonson Rd.
- 5.8 The new shops are now being let and the income from these - allowing for initial rent-free periods, loan repayments and management fees - is becoming available for transfer to ORT. This is anticipated to be c. £36,000 in 2018/19; c. £148,000 in 2019/20; and c. £190,000 per year from 2020/21 onwards.
- 5.9 This report seeks to transition the main grant funding to support ORT's core community activities from the existing shop units on the south side of Ben Jonson Rd, to the new retail units on the north side as always envisaged. In 2018/19 the new income source will comprise c. £36,000 of the requested £80,000 grant. From 2019-2022 some £528,000 of this new Council income needs to flow as grant to ORT, to fund both its core activities and contribute to the running of the Centre.
- 5.10 Since it acquired the Harford Community Centre the Council has in practice continued to utilise revenue from the existing Ben Jonson Rd (south) shops to meet an operational deficit of c.£95,000 per year (after income to the Centre is taken into account) to fund in-house management of the premises. If ORT is to take on management of the Centre for the next 3 years it will need to receive a similar amount of revenue from the existing shops (c. £281,000 in total), via grant, to cover a comparable deficit over the period. This is explained below. A further contingency provision maybe required if ORT does not receive the anticipated 80% community rent discount, as in this scenario the Council will require a stepped rent to be paid which would cost c. £61,000 more than the discounted rent over the lease period.
- 5.11 ORT's main delivery partnership is with City Gateway, who is based on the first floor of the Multicentre (Stepney Life) and working closely with the Trust on a programme

of specialist womens' services. This has embedded the Trust further into the identity of the centre.

#### **5.12 ORT's Core Activities**

Cabinet of 9<sup>th</sup> June 2010 considered and agreed Ocean NDC's Delivery Plan and Succession Strategy, which addressed the long-term Ocean legacy by confirming ORT as the successor body, to be a catalyst and focus for the on-going regeneration of the estate. The Council's Solicitor affirmed that ORT's activities were supportive of the Community Plan goals and the local area agreement, and consistent with delivery of the Council's functions and good administration. The decision confirmed that ORT was set up as a community interest company and should hold and operate assets on behalf of the local community.

5.13 The approved Succession Plan set out that ORT would get the ground rents from the new homes; could take a lease of the new community facilities and manage the community space; and have a right to sub-let and receive income from these and from the retail / commercial units on both the south and north side of Ben Jonson Road. This provision meant ORT was well placed to manage the community aspects of the Harford Street premises, and to maintain a strategic view of community needs and existing resources.

5.14 Since November 2011 ORT has established strong links in the community. The Trust has an annual community grant fund of c. £50k to which organisations can apply for up to £5,000 for single projects or £10,000 for projects delivered in partnership with other organisations in the area. Examples of local organisations who have received grants are Tower Hamlets Hockey Club, Lower Regents Coalition and projects to benefit older and younger people. The projects come under themes including:

- Improving peoples' life skills, education, employability and enterprise (3 projects and 65 beneficiaries in 2018/19)
- Engaging young people in positive activities (5 projects, 435 beneficiaries in 2018/19)
- Community wellbeing and inclusion (4 projects, 300 beneficiaries in 2018/19)
- Connecting older people (4 projects, 60 beneficiaries in 2018/19)

5.15 ORT / City Gateway partnership is its fourth year of operation and has proved very successful with classes often oversubscribed. They continue to deliver:

- Services primarily aimed at the most disadvantaged women and families in Ocean Estate and the surrounding area;
- Engage, mentor and train the most excluded individuals;
- Bring together different groups and cultures, and work against conflict and division;
- ESOL, literacy, numeracy, and apprenticeship sessions every week

5.16 In addition the Trust works with and supports projects including:

- Tower Project who run the Ocean View café on the ground floor of the Centre.
- Streets of Growth: set up to address ASB on the estates and targets young people up to the age of 25. It is a partnership between the council, housing providers, police and other interested parties; it's facilitated by ORT. They have identified particular 'hotspots' in recent months such as Beaumont Square, Trafalgar Gardens and Grand Union Place and work with the police in helping to identify perpetrators of ASB. They have been successful in

getting a number of boys and young men to sign up for their in-house programme addressing life skills development, ASB awareness, career and work skills needed for positive progression.

- Universal Credit and Support - Limehouse Project has been awarded funding for a year to provide support to Ocean residents in order to understand changes with the benefits system with the introduction of the universal credit. The project will address problems that the changes to the benefits' system have caused for recipients.
- Ocean Summer Fair: a collaboration of four local TRAs and facilitated by ORT with event management support from DoLittle CIC, a local social enterprise specialising in community based events. It was held on Saturday 8th September in Shandy Park and had over 500 people attending. The focus was to encourage all members of the community to come together and join in the fun. There were food stalls, information stalls and lots of activities for children.
- Whitehorse Adventure Playground: ORT has funded Play Association Tower Hamlets (PATH) to fill a gap in activities for 8 – 12 year olds as provision for this age group in the area ceased when the adventure playground and the Arbour youth centre closed. PATH applied to ORT to staff play sessions at the Adventure Playground to address the issue. The main activity is outdoor play in all seasons, however indoor activity, such as craft making and table football is also provided.

5.17 **2017/18:** ORT income totalled £190,828 (including £80,000 grant from LBTH and ground rents). Expenditure was £237,683, leaving a deficit of £46,855 to be met from reserves.

5.18 **2018/19:** ORT has projected expenditure of c. £265,000, higher than in previous years because more projects are being delivered. Current projected income includes £114,000 ground rents and Council grant funding of £80,000, as recommended in this report. This Council grant will help ORT to meet its committed project expenditure this year, utilising some of its reserves, and retain a prudent operational reserve to carry into 2019/20.

5.19 ORT's costs and core work programme in 2018/19 includes:

- salaries / consultants / running costs £98,400;
- community grants for 16 projects and 2 networking events £48,000;
- and ORT directly funded projects £119,000.

5.20 **2019 – 2022:** in the next 3 years ORT has taken a conservative view on its core activities, partly to allow for its investment in the Centre if it takes on the management role; and partly in case the Council opts to retain some of the potential grant income from the new shops to meet its own costs if ORT cannot take on a lease of the Centre.

5.21 ORT has assumed in its business planning that its stand-alone core (i.e. non-Centre) community activities will comprise project expenditure on the themes indicated above of c. £156,000 on average per annum plus staff, consultancy and running costs of c. £97,000 per annum - equating to a total spend each year of c. £253,000 (excluding any expenditure on running the Centre).

5.22 The grant requested in this report can be broken down as follows:

- allocation of £80,000 grant to ORT for 2018/19, funded as agreed in previous years by an interim provision of revenue from the existing shops on the south side of Ben Jonson Road (Nos 38-82 even), and supplemented by revenue

from the new retail units on the north side of Ben Jonson Road (Nos 41-73 odd) which is now coming on-stream;

- allocation of £809,000 grant to ORT for the period 2019 – 2022, comprising £528,000 projected revenue from the new retail units on the north side of Ben Jonson Road and £281,000 from existing shop units on the south side of Ben Jonson Rd: this grant will support ORT's ongoing projects and core activities for this period, and specifically will enable ORT to take on a 3 year lease from the Council to manage the Harford Street Community Centre, which is explained below.
- a further provisional grant of £61,000 as a contingency should ORT not be eligible for the anticipated 80% community rent discount, as explained in the report.

## **6. ORT & TOWER HAMLETS STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

- 6.1 On 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011, Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) endorsed the Council's approved Succession Strategy for ORT. DCLG was content with the viability of the strategy to sustain the benefits achieved by previous funding and that it was consistent with Tower Hamlets' local objectives. Subsequent grant applications for funding have supported the ongoing work of the ORT as it has continued to deliver on the Succession Strategy to promote the socio-economic regeneration of the Ocean Estate in line with the Council's corporate strategies.
- 6.2 The Trust through its grant funding delivers on the local and wider borough objectives. The Trust has tailored its objectives to address local neighbourhood need whilst contributing to the Council's wider strategies.

### **6.3 Ocean Regeneration Trust Objectives 2018 – 2022**

The Trust's objectives below are tailored to the specific needs of the Ocean estate. They reflect the Council's objectives to improve the lives of all residents in the borough.


- Improving education, particularly English language skills, and training levels for adults and children
- Tackling unemployment
- Improving health and wellbeing and encouraging healthy lifestyles
- Supporting local shops and businesses to ensure economic regeneration of the neighbourhood is not side lined
- Monitoring the impact of benefit and welfare changes and helping to leverage additional resources to address poverty on the estate.

### **6.4 Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan 2018 – 21.**

Listed below are two of three Council priorities that ORT will support through funding projects described already in this report:

- Priority 1: People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities
- Priority 2: A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in

### **6.5 Tower Hamlets Community Engagement Framework 2018 – 2021**

<p>Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee report</p> <p>21 April 2021</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Ann Sutcliffe, Interim Corporate Director of Place</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Formal offer of Historic Buildings Grant to Greenlight Youth Club</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Eve McQuillan</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Michael Ritchie – Place Shaping Team Leader Anna Zucchelli – Heritage at Risk Project Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	Bow East
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	Impact on Wards
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A Great Place to Live</b>

## Executive Summary

This report relates to a formal offer of a London Borough of Tower Hamlets Historic Buildings Grant of £12,000 to Greenlight Youth Club, 223 Bow Road, Bow, E3 2SJ, towards the cost of timber repairs to the first-floor bay windows, shutters and front door. This is part of a wider works package which includes improvements to the flat roof to the rear of the building, building security and internal refurbishment works.

The building is listed grade II and is in the Fairfield Road Conservation Area. The building is monitored as “vulnerable” by Historic England’s Heritage at Risk team. Whilst the building is not currently on the Heritage at Risk register, if the condition and occupancy of the building does not improve in the near future, it may be added to the list.

## Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- Authorise the Corporate Director Place to issue a formal offer of grant to Greenlight Youth Club to a maximum of £12,000 towards the cost of timber repairs to the first-floor bay windows, shutters and front door.

- Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into the grant agreement and any such other agreements required to affect the grant and the use of the grant as detailed in paragraph 1.

## 1. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 Greenlight Youth Club is an unassuming, solitary and quaint two storey building dating from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century with painted stucco, parapet and tiled roof. It has two bay windows to the first floor and a 19<sup>th</sup> century shopfront. It is a rare survival of this building type in what was once the rural village of Bow and could well be the oldest house in this part of the East End.



**Fig. 1: Greenlight Youth Club**

- 1.2 Greenlight Youth Club is an independently-funded community hub which offers family dispute resolution, social and leisure opportunities to support groups and individual development, arts, a Credit Union, a community café, a breakfast club, crime prevention, student placements and special events for senior citizens.

- 1.3 The Council's Historic Building Grant would contribute towards the cost of timber repairs to the first-floor bay windows, shutters and front door. This joinery is in a poor condition - remedial work now will prevent further decay to the timberwork and avoid large repair costs in the future.
- 1.4 The works will also improve the external appearance of the Grade II listed building and is an opportunity to enhance the Fairfield Road Conservation Area.
- 1.5 Two years ago, the youth club suffered from structural issues to its party wall due to development on a neighbouring site, forcing it to close and be unable to offer its services to the local community. The closure of the club has been extended further due to the impact of covid-19, which has unfortunately resulted in two break-ins and occupation by squatters.
- 1.6 The youth club proposes to improve security of the building by installing new locks and alarms. It is also preparing to open its doors to the community again once restrictions have been lifted with some internal decoration. These works, however, do not form part of the application for funds from the Council's Historic Buildings Grant scheme. If the building is occupied more frequently and in a better condition (i.e. it appears better cared for), especially on its front elevation, it will be less at risk from future break-ins.

## **2. DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 2.1 The Council operates a Historic Building Grant scheme to assist owners and occupiers of listed buildings and buildings within conservation areas in meeting their responsibilities for the care and maintenance of the irreplaceable cultural asset which these buildings represent. The provision of this type of grant is in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework and section 57 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
- 2.2 Each year the Council makes £25,000 available for its Historic Buildings Grant scheme. The money is allocated from the Planning & Building Control budget. Funds are now rolled over from previous years where they have not been allocated to specific projects. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021, the Historic Buildings Grant budget holds £38,000 and there are currently no funds allocated to any projects. In April 2021, a further £25,000 will be added to the budget, providing a new total of £63,000 for the financial year 2021/22. If a grant of £12,000 was awarded to Greenlight Youth Centre, it would leave £51,000 in the grant budget for 2021/22.

- 2.3 In the majority of cases, the priority for the Historic Buildings Grant is given to applications for buildings which are on the Heritage at Risk register or for buildings located within a conservation area at risk, however, there have been no applications this financial year. Greenlight Youth Club is considered a vulnerable building and if works are not carried out to the building soon, there is a chance that the condition of the building will decline and Historic England may decide to place it on the Heritage at Risk register.
- 2.4 The minimum eligible for grant funding is £1000. Where works are eligible, the grant will not exceed 60% of the total cost (including VAT). The total cost of the works is £22,900 and Greenlight are requesting £12,000 which is under 60% of the total cost.
- 2.5 Greenlight Youth Club have requested a Historic Buildings Grant from the Council for timber repairs to the first-floor bay windows, shutters and front door. This is part of further work to be carried out at the youth club including improvements to building security and internal refurbishment works.
- 2.6 These external works meet the grant criteria; however, the formal offer of grant will be conditional on the receipt of a specification/ method statement, drawings/ photographs and comparable quotes from three contractors. These documents will need to be found to be satisfactory by the Council.
- 2.7 Payment of the grant is conditional on the inspection, by the Conservation Officer or Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, of the work contained within the application to ensure it has been carried out satisfactorily to a good conservation standard. An annotated photographic report will be prepared and kept on file. The relevant budget holder will request a purchase order from the Financial Accounts Payments Section to be sent to Greenlight Youth Centre, who will then submit an invoice and the Finance Accounts Payments Section will arrange payment.
- 2.8 The grant will be conditional upon the building participating in London Open House of 5 years to ensure the best possible value for the council.

### **3. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 The proposed works would contribute to the conservation and enhancement of a highly valued community asset, contributing to the setting of the Fairfield Road Conservation Area and neighbouring listed buildings, which include the grade II\* Bow Church.



- 3.2 The building currently provides a wide range of community support activities to young people, but also senior citizens and families. The work is part of a wider package to reopen the building and make it more welcoming for the community.
- 3.3 The project thus contributes to the theme 'A Great Place to Live' in the Community Plan to build One Tower Hamlets.

#### **4. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.

#### **4.2 Best Value implications**

The delivery of this project ensures the Council meets its commitment set out in the Council's Conservation Strategy. The repair works will benefit community members and is considered to offer excellent value for money. The grant will be conditional on the building participating in London Open House for five years to ensure the best possible value for the Council.

#### **4.3 Environmental**

The works will improve the lifetime of the existing windows and doors. If the condition of the windows worsens, this may result a need for larger scale repair or replacement of timbers.

#### **4.4 Risk management**

Three quotes have been received for the work. Payment of the grant cannot be made until the work is completed to the full satisfaction of the Council.

#### **4.5 Crime reduction**

Whilst the youth centre was vacant, it was broken into and occupied by squatters twice. With the appearance of the building in a better condition,

security measures and greater use of the building by the community, this should minimise the risk of further break-ins.

#### **4.6 Safeguarding**

There are no safeguarding implications.

### **5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 5.1 LBTH receives grant funding of £25k per annum for use on Historic Buildings. This grant is ringfenced and cannot be used for other purposes. Where the grant is not spent in full during the year, it is moved to reserves for use on future projects. The balance on the reserve as at 31 March 2021 is £38k.
- 5.2 The Council will receive a further grant of £25k in 2021/22, giving total funding of £63k for use on projects meeting the grant conditions. There are no commitments against this funding.
- 5.3 This report is seeking approval to allocate £12k of historic buildings grant funding to the Greenlight Roof Club to contribute towards the repair of the bay windows on this grade II listed property. There are sufficient funds available to meet this cost, which if approved would reduce the funding available for other schemes to £51k.

### **6. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 6.1 The Council has the legal power to make the grant described in this report.
- 6.2 The evaluation of the grant application was made in compliance with the Historic Building Grant scheme criteria and the Council will constantly monitor the grant to ensure that such criteria are always met, and funding distributed fairly.
- 6.3 The grant monitoring will be supported by appropriate agreement terms. The agreement will ensure that the funding is used in compliance with the purposes stated in the grant application and the conditions highlighted in this report. This will assist the Council achieving Best Value in line with the law. A condition of the grant is that the Council must review the specification/ method statement, drawings/ photographs relating to the works and comparable quotes from three contractors and must be satisfied that these are compliant with the grant criteria. This to confirm that the cost of the works represents Best Value.
- 6.4 There are no immediate legal equality issues arising from this report. However, the grant monitoring process will assess any equalities issues that may arise and ensure that these are dealt with appropriately.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- List any linked reports
- 
- State NONE if none.

### **Appendices**

- None

### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012**

- List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.
- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

Or state N/A

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<p><b>Grants Determination Cabinet Sub-Committee</b></p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> April 2021</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority and Equalities contract provision transition fund</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>John Biggs, the Mayor Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Awo Ahmed, Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer Emily Fieran-Reed, Senior Strategy and Policy Manager Mark Waterman, Strategy and Policy Manager
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	<b>All</b>

## Executive Summary

This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The report also seeks a decision to delegate the award of £10,000 in transition funding grants for the changes relating to the Equalities contract provision. The proposal is that the specification for the tendering of the Equalities Hub contract should include the requirement to manage the transition funding as a grant programme.

## **Recommendations:**

The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the update on funding awarded and available to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting.
2. Agree the creation of £10,000 equalities transition fund to be delivered as a grant programme by the successful bidder of the Equalities Hub contract, as set out in section 3.25 to be allocated in accordance with the terms of this report

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 There are a number of funding programmes to support voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough where decisions are made under delegated authority either by officers or, in the case of the Small Grants Programme, the East End Community Foundation. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting.
- 1.2 The transition grants have been identified as a mitigating action within the Equalities Impact Assessment of the recent Equalities Contract Review.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The council could decide not to provide funding to VCS organisations through its various programmes. However, to do this would be contrary to the agreed policy to support the VCS in the borough set out in the VCS Strategy.

## **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

### **Small Grants Programme**

- 3.1 The Small Grants Programme was established to ensure that local people and community groups will continue to be able to get funding from the council to support community initiatives – people getting together to get things done. The programme is intended to make funds available to support grass roots activity in local communities that will help make life better in Tower Hamlets and achieve the changes set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan and the council's

Strategic Plan. By establishing a single grants programme with different themes or activities to be funded, the council is trying to make sure local groups seeking funds will have a one stop shop to get to the funds best suited to their needs.

- 3.2 The small grants programme has eight themes that constitute the main programme, an additional Covid-19 Outreach and Engagement theme was agreed at Grants Determination Sub Committee on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 3.3 There have been no small grant awards under delegated authority since the last GDSC meeting.

### **Main themes**

- 1. **Innovation** - to encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap.
- 2. **Prevention** - to promote grass roots activity to reduce the need for statutory services.
- 3. **Neighbourhood action** - to promote local neighbourhood initiatives
- 4. **Community cohesion** - to develop community resilience, promote cultural opportunities and reduce social isolation.
- 5. **Partnership working** - making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.

### **Focussed Themes**

- 6. **Community Support Services for Older People** – to combat social isolation of older people through the provision of community-based support services.
  - 7. **Access and Participation** – establishing access and participation schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities.
  - 8. **Loneliness** - Reducing the impact of loneliness and isolation.
  - 9. **Covid-19 Outreach and Engagement** - to support the dissemination of key messages around Covid-19.
- 3.4 The Public Health Covid -19 Outreach & Engagement theme of the small grants programme opened for applications for VCS organisations to apply for funding to help disseminate local public health messaging around Covid-19 and improving the uptake of Test and Trace in priority communities.
  - 3.5 Identified priority groups for this theme are; Young People, Carers, Homeless people, New migrants, Students, People experiencing domestic violence, people experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty.
  - 3.6 The total budget available for this theme was £30,000. Grants of up to £1,000 were available to un-constituted groups of residents and grants of up to £3,000 to constituted not-for-profit organisations.

- 3.7 Identified priority groups for this theme are; Young People, Carers, Homeless people, New migrants, Students, People experiencing domestic violence, people experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty.
- 3.8 A total of 23 applications were received and assessed in this theme.
- 3.9 There were 10 organisations that were successful in being awarded funding with a total budget of £29,498.
- 3.10 There is a balance of £502 remaining from the Covid -19 Outreach & Engagement theme and the fund closed for applications on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021.
- 3.11 The organisations that have been awarded funding under this theme are set out in **Appendix A**

### **Innovation Fund**

- 3.12 The council is keen to encourage and support innovation in the sector and acknowledged that this would require some funding to enable the sector to pilot new initiatives and approaches to service delivery and support.
- 3.13 The Innovation Fund supports VCS organisations to "test and learn" new ways of working, new initiatives and new delivery models that if successful could be scaled up and commissioned more formally.
- 3.14 At the Commissioners Decision Making Meeting on the 12th April 2016 the creation of the Innovation Fund was agreed.
- 3.15 The Council has an agreement with the crowdfunding portal, Spacehive, to support local VCS organisations crowdfund for projects and the Innovation Fund budget is £180,000. Total awards to date are £123,479.25 with a remaining balance of £56,520.75
- 3.16 VCS organisations that crowdfund through the Our Tower Hamlets page of the Spacehive portal will have an opportunity to pitch for up to £10,000 (or a maximum of 50 per cent of an organisations crowdfunding target) in match funding for their projects.
- 3.17 Further details can be found on [SpaceHive Tower Hamlets](#) and the [Innovation Fund](#) pages with more information available in the [factsheet](#).
- 3.18 Details of pledges agreed by officers under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee from the Innovation Fund and projects that have succeeded in reaching their targets are set out in **Appendix B**

### **Contingency Fund**



- 3.19 The Contingency Fund was set up by the Sub-Committee to extend the existing Emergency Fund from being purely a fund to support organisations facing 'life and limb' emergencies to a fund that may also support organisations facing the impact of a significant loss of council funding.
- 3.20 At the meeting held on 29 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to close the transition element of the Contingency Fund and extend the Fund further to include support for organisations affected by Covid 19. The Covid Community fund opened for applications on the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020. For a limited period, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in Tower Hamlets will be able to access funding and organisational support.
- 3.21 Awards are made from the Contingency Fund by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee. There have been no awards against this fund since the last Sub-Committee meeting.

### **Covid Community Fund**

- 3.22 The Covid Community Fund Budget is £100k, to date three organisations have been awarded funding totalling £13,972. The remaining balance is £86,028.
- 3.23 Organisations that have been successful in the Covid Community Fund are set out in **Appendix C**

### **Emergency Funding**

- 3.24 The Emergency Funding budget is £50,000, since the last GDSC meeting one organisation has been awarded Emergency Funding set out in **Appendix D**

### **(Equalities Contract Provision) - Transition Fund**

- 3.25 In 2020 and early 2021, Tower Hamlets Council undertook a review of the seventeen contracts it commissioned to deliver services to specific protected characteristic groups on its behalf. Based on the insight gained from conducting the review, including the feedback from consultation and engagement, and the final model and Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) having been through the Council's Corporate Equality Board in January 2021, the council agreed to adopt a 'hub and spoke model' for its core community equalities provision in future. As part of this model, an Equalities Hub is currently being commissioned, linked to seven networks relating to specific protected characteristic groups. The new model is being delivered within the original budget available for this provision.
- 3.26 The model includes a small amount of grant funding for eligible local VCS organisations for equalities related activity. This consists of a £10,000 fund, allocated from the existing budget to deliver the equalities provision and

covering the financial year 2021/22. The fund is part of a range of actions identified in the review's Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) to mitigate against any equality impacts arising from the change to provision, and to enable transition to the new model.

- 3.27 The fund will be administered and managed on behalf of the Council by the organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub at the end of the tender exercise, currently underway. Expressions of interest have been received from organisations and the tender is taking place according to procurement practices and regulations, via the Request for Quote (RFQ) system, using the Proactis system. The assessment of the tenders will include consideration of the experience and ability of the organisation to administer a grant fund. The contract is expected to be awarded in May 2021 for delivery from June 2021.
- 3.28 The criteria for the award of grants under this fund will be agreed between the successful organisation and Council officers, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Equalities.
- 3.29 Grants awarded under this fund will be subject to written grant agreements between the Equalities Hub and the organisation receiving the grant.
- 3.30 Any costs associated with managing and administering this fund will be borne by the commissioned provider and reflected in the price they tender for.
- 3.31 The monitoring of grants awarded under the fund shall be the responsibility of the commissioned organisation, and ultimately of the Council officers managing the contract, who will report back to GDSC on how the grants are used and the impact.
- 3.32 Grant Determination Sub-Committee (GDSC) is asked to agree delegated powers to award this funding to the organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub, as agreed by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy & Performance. Each grant made as part of the £10,000 transition funding will be reported to GDSC by Council officers through the regular report on grants awarded under delegated authority.
- 3.24 Further background on the review of the Council's equalities contracts can be found in **Appendix E**.

#### **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 All grants awarded need to demonstrate how they meet the need of our diverse communities and support the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. Equalities data is collected as part of the monitoring process and this will be reported as part of the annual reporting process.

## **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

### **5.1 Best Value**

Recent legislation, particularly the Localism Act 2010, has emphasised the role of communities working in partnership with local authorities to help achieve more effective and less costly services to local people. The process of co-production of services delivered by local voluntary and community organisations is a tool now widely recognised as a means to achieving this outcome.

### **5.2 Risk Management**

There is a risk that, by not publishing details of funding awarded to VCS organisations, the council could leave itself open to challenge that it is not fulfilling previous commitments to openness and transparency. This report is one of a series that will provide updates on funding decisions made under delegated authority and the VCS Annual Report will provide more detailed analysis.

### **5.3 Crime Reduction**

There are no specific crime reduction considerations arising from this report.

### **5.4 Safeguarding**

There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report. However, ensuring appropriate consideration is given to safeguarding will be addressed in the monitoring of the Small Grants Programme.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

6.1 This report notes the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community (VCS) organisations under delegated authority.

6.2 Appendices A to D detail the grants awarded to date and are contained within the available budgets.

6.3 Paragraph 3.26 details that the £10,000 transition fund will be delivered as a grant programme by the successful bidder of the Equalities Hub contract.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 There are no legal issues arising from the existing grant funds referred to in this report.

7.2 The Council has the legal power to create the £10,000 equalities grant fund referred to in recommendation 2

- 7.3 The organisation who provides the Equalities Hub (currently being commissioned) will be responsible for allocating portions of the equalities grant fund. The fund is intended to assist in the mitigation of any impact on people who have a protected characteristic following the changes to the grant strategy referred to in this report. Therefore, the hub will allocate funds based on this as a criterion and otherwise in accordance with fair and open criteria agreed with the Council
- 7.4 The report refers to reporting back to GDSC relating to the allocation of the Equalities grant fund. This monitoring will also include ensuring that the money is used by the VCS organisations for the purposes for which it is granted and thereby assisting to demonstrate statutory Best Value.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

NONE

### **Appendices**

Appendix A Small Grants Covid-19 Awards 2020/21

Appendix B Innovation Funding Awards

Appendix C Covid Community Fund

Appendix D Emergency Funding

Appendix E Summary of the Review of Equalities Contracts

### **Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012**

- NONE

### **Officer contact details for documents**

## Appendix A - Small Grants Awards 2020/21

### Covid-19 Outreach & Engagement Theme

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
1	True Cadence CIC	A 5-week video project, in collaboration with social entrepreneur filmmaker Joe Tamplin and co-directed by young people. The project will recruit local young poets/rappers and dancers to produce a 3-5 minute video disseminating the message on NHS Test and Trace. This video will be shared on social media and to relevant local networks that support young people as well as being pushed to local news.	Young People	200	No	A fundable innovative project developed by the priority community and shared to local relevant networks. The organisation is experienced in supporting local young people and having delivered a similar project demonstrates capability. A good monitoring and evaluation plan is in place tracking views, comments and feedback. Overall a good application that aligns well with the theme.	3,000
2	The Ensign Youth Club	A 6-month outreach project delivered in St Katharine's, Whitechapel, Wapping and Shadwell areas to disseminate information on NHS Test and Trace targeting BAME adults and older people who are digitally excluded. An outreach worker will be paid to go out in these areas identifying those who match this priority community and offer them leaflets and telephone services explaining the NHS Test and Trace system. This will also be offered to the organisation's current beneficiaries accessing the their food banks.	People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	75	Older People's Theme Mar 2020: £12,770	Originally reviewed in Dec 2020 and additional information requested. The organisation has provided further clarity on their delivery plan which involves their outreach worker contacting older people within the community and through their existing covid-19 response project and providing information and leaflets on the test and trace and vaccination programme. The outreach worker will also contact people by telephone to follow up and support them to access the relevant services. The anticipated beneficiary number has increased and the organisation has developed an appropriate response to the needs of their beneficiaries.	3,000
3	Aishah Help	An outreach and engagement project that	People	200	Yes	Originally reviewed in Dec 2020 and	3,000

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
Page 62		delivers information and support via the organisation's existing food service and through the production of a video for local older Bangladeshi people who are excluded from online services. Leaflets and support will be provided face to face and via the telephone to current beneficiaries and the video will be produced with local residents informing others on the test and trace and vaccination programme. This will be shared through local Bangladeshi TV channels.	experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty			additional information requested. The organisation has provided further clarity on their delivery plan which utilises their existing network of volunteers and beneficiaries through their food delivery service. Funding will support staff time and the production of leaflets and a video to be shared through local Bangladeshi TV channels. Outreach will be conducted by telephone and through the food parcel delivery to measure beneficiaries feedback and understanding of current guidelines, test and trace and vaccinations.	
	Brick Lane Women and Girls Project	To deliver key messages on NHS Test and Trace to vulnerable older BAME women from Spitalfields and who lack digital skills 2 days per week at Kobi Nazrul Centre for 26 weeks. Participants will be recruited from existing project and volunteers will be carrying out outreach work. Sessions will be conducted via telephone depending on current restrictions	People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	29	Yes	Originally reviewed in Dec 2020 and additional information requested. The organisation is very small and delivering activities at a grassroots level. Funding would support the organisation leader to deliver a programme of 121 sessions with older Bangladeshi women to share information and provide support with issues they're facing as a result of the pandemic. The organisation will produce information to be shared via leaflets but there is no wider engagement plan beyond the 121 sessions. Overall the application lacks detail however, will provide support at a very grassroots level to older BAME women who may not access other support services	3,000

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
5	Film Skool Deluxe	A three-month digital filmmaking course for young people in Tower Hamlets, to work with professional filmmakers and create films that will promote NHS Test and Trace. One session per week where young people will learn about NHS Test and Trace and the filming sessions will take place on the weekends. The young people will also have sessions where they will be made aware of NHS Test and Trace. Once the films have been completed, the plan is to screen the films online, inviting all young people and their parents/carers and the local community. The organisation also plans to post these films online and promote it to other organisations supporting young people as well as creating posters and leaflets promoting NHS Test and Trace to hand out.	Young People	35	No	Although the organisation is registered address is outside of Tower Hamlets they have been working with children and young people in Tower Hamlets for over 16 years through local schools and have been based at Brady Arts Centre delivering their projects. An innovative approach to community engagement and ultimately promoting NHS Test and Trace with the addition of learning digital skills. A good monitoring and evaluation plan is in place with mid and end feedback from participants on their knowledge on NHS Test and Trace. However, this is a similar approach to the grant currently awarded to True Cadence CIC.	<b>3,000</b>
6	ICM Foundation CIC	To support adults with learning disabilities and their carers to create and adapt appropriately targeted COVID-19 safety messages. We will then evolve these into effective messages that inform people with learning difficulties and disabilities about key COVID-19 safety information as well as providing a means for families and carers to understand and share these with those in the community who have specific communication needs. This may include easy read information, short video messages and a developed cascade chain where information can be quickly and effectively shared. We will be liaising with	Young people, Carers, People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	30	Small Grants Fund Dec 2020: £4,760	An appropriate response has been developed to support adults and their carer's with relevant Covid-19 safety messages. The organisation has a strong track record of supporting adults with learning disabilities and has been delivering an online engagement programme since the first lockdown. A well planned and user-led project	<b>3,000</b>

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
		Public Health as part of their COVID-19 Outreach and messaging programme and drawing on recent research and information gathered by Healthwatch Tower Hamlets.					
7	Nujum Sports CIC	To conduct COVID 19 awareness workshops with young people between the ages of 13 and 18 who are students. We will also be targeting new migrants who have moved into Tower Hamlets. The workshops will cover NHS test and trace (how to use the app), Information about the vaccination, How to keep yourself COVID secure and Information about how to take a test for COVID	Young People	60	no	The organisation is newly registered as a CIC and delivers advice and support to Muslim athletes. The organisation has developed partnerships with Central Foundation School, Sporting Foundation and Crisis in Aldgate and they will recruit young people and new migrants to participate in the monthly workshops. The organisation anticipates 12 participants at each session, which can be delivered online depending on current guidelines. Costs are reasonable although publicity costs are high and have not been well evidenced. Overall a clear proposal but we would recommend a reduced offer.	<b>2,500</b>
8	Olive Tree Education (OTE)	Offer and support developing materials to help vulnerable groups understand the messages regarding the Test and Trace Programme, using appropriate language. This would include activities posters, leaflet created and dissemination of Council and National Government information , social media to best reach local residents. Targeting vulnerable residents in Canary Wharf through telephone outreach, online and social media. Staff will answer questions and resolve concerns as appropriate and dispel	"Young people, students, People experiencing domestic violence, People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty"	108	Small Grants Fund Aug 2020: £4,894	The organisation delivers educational support and holiday provision for young BAME people in Tower Hamlets. The proposed activities will be provided twice weekly sessions on a telephone and remote basis providing holistic support and information to their existing beneficiary group, they currently have 200 users registered who will be their target audience. The organisation has established they have good networks in place and an existing beneficiary group who will benefit from	<b>3,000</b>



No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
		myths around the NHS services, encourage adherence to the Government guidelines and provide information leaflets on test and trace and the vaccinations.				the project and printed materials will be produced to disseminate	
9	The Power Movement Organisation LTD	To deliver Covid-19 information workshops for BAME elderly in the Selby Community Centre running 2 workshops a week for 4 weeks, conducted by a trained NHS advisor and professional translators. One session in the mornings and one session in the evenings. Also, knocking on doors, providing information directly to the community verbally and through a printed information sheet.	People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	50	No	The organisation submitted a detailed application and proposed an appropriate awareness project that is realistic and achievable. A good monitoring and evaluation plan is in place tracking progress of understanding NHS Test and Trace. The organisation is newly established with no online presence or evidence of activities. Current income is stated as £0 but financial forecast shows current support. If supported, grant should be approved contingent to evidence of previous activities and confirmation of other funding support	<b>3,000</b>
10	Globe Community Project	"Language of Well-being - Covid Outreach Project" is a 10-week project supporting 25 refugee and migrant women. Project is being delivered in partnership with Praxis. Project includes the provision of trauma informed yoga, ESOL, group discussion and digital outreach to access health info related to Covid-19 and will deliver a session around the test and trace app. Sessions will be delivered online weekly (1.5 hr sessions). The aim is to deconstruct myths around Covid-19. Many women speak Bengali, and English language is limited.	New Migrants	25	No	The application mentions that the women will take part in 10 weekly online 1.5 hour sessions, and that these sessions will include a blend of trauma-informed yoga, health education and ESOL work on the themes to elicit her women's experiences, ideas and attitudes towards Covid-19. The organisation confirmed that the women will also discuss, elaborate, educate, demystify, role play, and so on around Covid-19. Each session will blend some body work (tied to the theme of the session, e.g. immune system, infection prevention, respiratory system, transmission) with	<b>2,998</b>

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
Page 66						educational input, and the discussion groups. This method (which they have already trialled to great effect) is based on evidence that people who have experienced trauma often do not retain learning in a traditional classroom setting, but are much better able to absorb information when there is a physical component, as part of a holistic approach. The organisation emphasised that the group is really excited about using this methodology to respond to the urgent public situation which particularly threatens this community of refugee and migrant BAME women. This is an innovative project which seeks to inform new migrants about Covid-19 through non-traditional yet culturally and emotionally sensitive mediums. Recommended for funding.	
						<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,498</b>
						<b>AVAILABLE BUDGET</b>	<b>30,000</b>
						<b>REMAINING BUDGET</b>	<b>502</b>

## Appendix B – Innovation Funding

No.	Organisation / Project	Total crowdfunding target	Recommended pledge	Reason for Recommendation
1.	<b>Chisenhale PTA</b>  Chisenhale Learn + Play + Create Space	£9,698	£4,849	<p>This is an innovative project that proposes to support the local community, the proposed space will allow children to have access to the new playground for longer periods as the current set up in the school only allows classes intermittently outside due to covid measures and lack of outdoor play space for the school. In addition to this the space will benefit the whole community as the PTA have partnered up with Chisenhale Art Space who have a programme of events that will benefit the local community including workshops, dance performances and outdoor studio events.</p> <p>shared community space which will be used as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o A pop-up playground to allow the children at Chisenhale School to have longer playtimes in their new 'covid-secure' year group bubbles</li> <li>o - An Outdoor classroom where children have PE lessons and gardening club</li> <li>o - Space for safer drop offs and pickups</li> <li>o - A pocket-park for the community to use outside of school hours</li> <li>o - An outdoor venue for a programme of arts workshops, street dance and whatever ideas emerge over the year</li> </ul> <p>Delivery;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1-2 outdoor classroom spaces</li> <li>• a programme of at least 10 arts events over the next year</li> <li>• a pop up parklet for use of the community outside of school hours</li> <li>• 200sq m of pop-up play space for children</li> <li>• 20 new street trees/shrubs/plants</li> <li>• an outdoor (basic) covid-secure performance space</li> <li>• 18+ secure bike parking spaces</li> </ul> <p><b>Project Page information – 27<sup>th</sup> Jan @ 07.46am</b>  Total amount – £9,698  Pledged to date – £3,385  Campaign deadline – 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.  Number of backers – 35</p>

No.	Organisation / Project	Total crowdfunding target	Recommended pledge	Reason for Recommendation
2.	<b>TechInclusion UK</b> Tech For Towerhamlets	£36,187	£10,000	<p>Using the above IF assessment criteria the organisation scored 87% - with this score the organisation is eligible for 50% of total target, this equates to £4,849.</p> <p><b>Conditions of offer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The organisation must obtain council planning permissions to convert the land into a playground before funding is released.</li> <li>Partnership agreement signed with Chisenhale Gallery Arts (Registered Charity 1026175) project detailing the use of the space, including safeguarding policy.</li> </ul> <p>Providing the conditions above are met the organisation is recommended to be awarded £4,849 of the Innovation Funding.</p> <p>This is a great project that fits in with the TH Priorities and outcomes as the focus of this project is to help digitally excluded young people with devices or connection to the internet, the organisation is prioritising young people who are ineligible for government support that need to be able to access learning at home and for them to really be able to reach their full potential.</p> <p>The project was created during lockdown by Collette and Rich (TechinclusionUK) initially started as a small project, the project creators have a background in business operations and law and have a clear passion to bridge the gap of digitally excluded young people in the borough.</p> <p>The organisation is also proposing an eco-model project which is environmentally sustainable – they will be sourcing, and re-conditioning used devices. Research provided by the organisation states that there are 11 million unused devices in the UK. Circular solution for digitally excluded young people.</p> <p>This is a great project that is well put together, the organisation has provided a lot of information and research into the needs of the project locally and internationally as they reference the UN Global Goals for sustainable development and they reference two goals the project is aligned to. 'Goal 4 Quality Education and Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production'.</p> <p>The organisations website is clear and concise with a donate tech tab and the steps to donate is clearly outlined register – collection of device – security clean – allocation.</p>

No.	Organisation / Project	Total crowdfunding target	Recommended pledge	Reason for Recommendation
				<p>Delivery;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional refurbishing of up to 500 donated devices</li> <li>• Purchasing up to 100 already refurbished laptops</li> </ul> <p>Steps to get it done;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Securely wipe and restore devices</li> <li>• Distribute devices into the community via the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership</li> <li>• Help individuals connect to the internet</li> <li>• Empower individuals with access to digital skills training.</li> <li>• Partnerships – volunteers from Covid Tech Support, We Make Change UK, Tower Hamlets Education Partnership</li> </ul> <p><b>Project Page information – 24th Feb @13.08</b>  <b>Total amount – £36,817</b>  <b>Pledged to date – £15,223</b>  <b>Number of days left of campaign - 27</b>  <b>Number of backers – 79</b></p> <p>The organisation scored 99% in their innovation fund assessment and using the above criteria guidelines – the organisation is recommended for £10,000 funding.</p>

Total Budget Available for The Innovation Fund – £180,000.

Total awards to date – £123,479.25

Remaining balance – £56,520.75

## Appendix C Covid Community Funding Awards 2021

No.	Organisation	Project	Recommended Award	Reason for Recommendation
1.	Dorsett Community Association	DCA	£4,975	<p><b>Dorset Community Association</b></p> <p>This organisation has been working continuously since the start of the pandemic and have adapted to deliver services safely and in line with social distancing measures – they closed the community centre and moved all programmes online. They have a robust system in place when volunteers are required to come into the building to prepare food parcels and other essential household items. They have requested this funding to purchase more PPE equipment as the previous batch is nearly finished and they need to place signage and purchase equipment to make the centre safer for staff.</p> <p><b>Delivery &amp; Costs breakdown</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleaning supplies, PPE, hand sanitizer station, signage, fittings and furniture to enable safe delivery of services £850</li> <li>• 10 x Samsung Tablets @ £140 each plus protective case and screen protector @ £16.20 – total cost per tablet with accessories = £140 x10 = £1400 £1400</li> <li>• Staff Costs – ICT Inclusion and support worker @ £15 per hour for 25 hours Comprising 20 hours working with 10 families, spending 2 hours with each family and 5 hours of ICT set up and administration.</li> <li>• Food Hub coordinator @ £15 per hours for 30 hours, comprising 3 hours a week over 10 weeks plus 1-hour admin £825</li> <li>• 300 x healthy cooked meals @ £3 each £900</li> </ul>

				TOTAL £4975
2.	Wapping Bangladesh Association	WBA	£4,000	<p>WBA have submitted a strong application with a good business case for covid community funding as the funding is required to purchase equipment to re-purpose delivery as detailed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• equipment will enable WBA to move to the virtual and online delivery of services by key core staff to meet increased demand.</li> <li>• IT equipment, software and training are necessary to enable secure effective working at home within Covid restrictions.</li> <li>• Volunteers will be provided with a tablet that will improve communication with the organisation and users, enable remote training, supervision, and other meetings. New outreach support work with existing and new participants has been introduced increasing the number of volunteers who need to be supported and managed.</li> </ul> <p>Training will be provided through this budget to support new IT use and ensure safety of workers and volunteers</p>
3.	Ocean Women's Association	OWA Befriending Project	£4,997	<p>Covid-19 has stopped the delivery of services as the OWA has had to cease all face-to-face provision.</p> <p>It is clear that the OWA needs this funding in order to provide more remote services – such as a new befriending service through telephone. The lack of face-to-face provision will be the biggest impact of Covid on its service delivery and have therefore seeks to begin a 'befriending project' via telephone to maintain OWA's relationship with service users as much as possible.</p> <p>Without the telephone befriending service, many Bangladeshi women will continue to be isolated, worsening long term physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The loss of this service will be detrimental to the 'People access joined-up services when they need them and feel healthier and more independent' and 'People feel they are part of a cohesive and vibrant community' aims in the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Delivery People / Staffing costs for manager: 4 days per month x 6 months (including on</p>

				costs)= 24 days - £ 3,325 People / Volunteer expenses: 5 volunteers supporting 3 clients each weekly x 6 month - £1,200 Resources: 12 mobile phone top up cards at £6 each - £72 Overheads: contribution to payroll, accounts, insurance - £400 <b>Total - £4,997.00</b>
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## Appendix D Emergency Funding Awards 2021

Organisation	Defined Emergency	Amount Requested	Recommended Award	Reason for Recommendation
<b>Black Women's Health &amp; Family Support</b>	<b>Closure of organisation</b>	£6,847	£6,847	<p>BWHFS have been supporting TH residents for over 35 years, a BAME led women's organisation providing vital support services to vulnerable families and children in the borough. Since the end of their MSG funding they have suffered significant financial difficulties. This compounded with the Covid pandemic has resulted in the unfortunate position of the organisation having to close its doors and claim insolvency. With over 30k in debt the organisation is requesting EF funding to recruit an insolvency practitioner to enable them to wind up the organisation without incurring financial implications to the trustees as set out below.</p> <p>Wind-up cost Breakdown  Insolvency Practitioner – £6,600</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will help claim the Director' redundancy payment from the HMRC recovery scheme; and</li> <li>• Will serve formal notification to creditors re insolvency – ensuring trustees are not liable for any financial implications as a result of closure.</li> <li>• The cost is broken down as £5,000 fee + £500 disbursements, plus VAT = £6,600.</li> </ul> <p>Accountancy/Advice Fees – £600</p>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will help with financial advice on insolvency, preparation of 'Statement of Affairs'</li> <li>• The cost is broken down as 6 hours @ £100ph + 6 hours @ £0pm = £600.</li> </ul> <p>Finance Worker – £900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will require the services of a Finance Worker who will need to liaise with the Insolvency Practitioner and the Trustees. Charges £150 for a "normal" month and £300 for an "intense" month (i.e. the month in which accounts are due). The organisation owe two "normal" months outstanding, and for the month in which 19/20 accounts were prepared.</li> <li>• The cost is broken down as 2 months @ £150pm + 2 months @ £300pm = £900.</li> </ul> <p>Director Salary for remaining two months – £2,646</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Director is the charity's only employee currently on partial furlough (organisation is receiving part of her payment from the government). February salary costs will be offset by the Furlough scheme,</li> <li>• The cost is broken down as 2 months' salary @ £1,964 – 1 month recovery @ £1,282 = £2,646</li> </ul> <p>Current Assets: Funds in bank – £3,900</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organisation is not applying for the full amount of wind-up costs as they have some assets to meet these costs. However, they state in their application that time is essential as 'the longer we delay declaring insolvency, the more these funds will deplete, and the larger our shortfall will grow. We cannot declare insolvency until we employ an Insolvency Practitioner'.</li> <li>• The figure is taken from the balance as at 5/2/21, less outgoings predicted up to 22/2/21.</li> </ul> <p>Total – £6,846</p> <p>Limiting risk - BWHFS Is part of a LCF Health Consortium Project with Stifford Centre – They have informed them of their current situation – LBTH Officers will need to work closely with BWHFS to conduct impact assessments, ensure clients are appropriately signposted on to other services</p> <p>Conditions of offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LBTH officers to closely work with the organisation to ensure smooth transition of beneficiaries onto relevant services, in addition</li> <li>• To ensuring their LCF Health Consortium partnership has transitioned appropriately and beneficiaries and partners have all been informed and</li> </ul>
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provided sign posting information.

## Appendix E – Summary of the Review of Equalities Contracts

In discharging the council's duties under the Equalities Act 2010, the council commissioned various Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to deliver services to specific protected characteristic groups on its behalf.

There are seventeen equalities contracts commissioned by the council's Corporate Strategy and Policy team. They range from strategic forums to events programmes as well as individual events and projects.

There had never previously been a formal review of these contracts. The review of these contracts was necessary to:

- improve management of equalities services and make them more cost efficient
- create a more joined-up approach to equalities contracts
- identify any gaps that are not met by either this provision or other local provision
- build capacity and competence amongst all providers delivering equalities services
- create greater flexibility to respond to intersectionality of people from multiple protected characteristics (e.g. BAME women or LGBT+ and disabled)

The consultation and engagement to support this review consisted of a number of phases. Initially, discussions occurred between officers, elected members and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service, in order to clarify the issues to be considered by the review, determine its scope and activities, and identify key stakeholders. Stakeholders were then invited to engage with options of engaging by email, through a one to one (online) meeting with a council officer or by attending an (online) focus group.

An online survey was then published on the 'Let's Talk Tower Hamlets' portal which any registered user of the portal was able to participate in. This survey informed the development of the model of future provision, as well as the Equalities Impact Assessment of the new model. It provided an opportunity for all those initially identified as a stakeholder, as well as the general public, to engage with the review.

The following opportunities to strengthen equality provision were identified through the consultation and engagement:

- Development of partnership working with each other, improving communication, actively participating in events across different protected characteristics and being committed to mutual sharing and collaboration
- Addressing the lack of a forum for both women and BAME communities to represent their views, share information and good practice and act as a vehicle for partnership working
- Opportunities for provision representing different protected characteristics to come together to share information
- Supporting equalities events which focus on a wider range of perspectives, in particular, supporting experiences relating to intersectionality and providing opportunities for different groups, to come together, where appropriate
- Focusing on addressing the impact of inequalities identified by being a voice to those they represent and providing a route to feed into policy and decision making in order to ensure issues are addressed

- Addressing intersectionality between different characteristics through greater communication and collaboration
- Being supported by the council, through the provision of a clear route to engage with decision makers and decision-making forums

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken. It noted the following positive impacts:

- The creation of a BAME network
- The funding of a Women's Network
- Linking the Older People's Reference Group and Youth Council into the Equalities Hub Network.
- Each of the networks amplifying the role and voice of these parts of the community.

The Equality Impact Assessment noted the following potential negative impacts:

- No longer directly commissioning Diwali or Chinese New Year events (Race/Religion or belief)
- No longer directly commissioning the Faith in Schools project (Religion or belief)
- No longer directly commissioning the Accessible Venues directory (Disability)
- Reduced network/event funding overall for disabled and LGBT groups (Disability, Sexual Orientation and Gender reassignment)

The Equality Impact Assessment included the creation of an action plan to mitigate potential negative impacts on particular protected characteristic groups, including:

- Additional funding of £6,000 per year to be added to the existing small grants programme for local VCS organisations that support particular protected characteristics
- £10,000 Transitional support fund for areas where funding has been significantly reduced
- Signposting to support from Council, CVS and the new providers to apply for other funding
- Better coordination, a community led approach and links to the hub

Based on the insight gained from conducting the review, including the feedback from consultation and engagement as well as the Equality Impact Assessment, the council has adopted a 'hub and spoke model' for its core community equalities provision. An Equalities Hub, is being established linked to seven networks relating to specific protected characteristic groups.

The Hub has a new strategic remit, supporting work across different networks, providing opportunities to feed into the council decision-making processes and enabling the networks to shape decisions by giving them a greater voice in matters relating to the protected characteristic groups.

The seven networks will be:

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Network
- Women's Network
- Disabled People's Network
- LGBT+ Network
- Faith Network (delivered through the Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum)
- Older People's Reference Group
- Youth Council

The new model will address significant gaps in the current provision. For example, the absence of a network to represent the views of the borough's BAME communities has been a significant gap as 55% of the borough's population come from BAME communities. Moreover, gender equality is

recognised as a strategic priority for the Council while issues impacting local women have increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic. There is therefore some urgency to establish a Women's Network.

While some of the networks, such as the LGBT+ Network, will replace existing commissioned provision, others, such as the Youth Council, are existing forums separate from the current equalities provision and will in future link with the Equalities Hub.

All of the networks will act as community leaders within the relevant protected characteristic group, working with VCS organisations and residents in Tower Hamlets, shaping local decision-making and working with other networks to address intersectionality. All provision will continue to be commissioned, with the networks delivered by local VCS organisations.

The Equalities Hub and Networks will be supplemented by continuing support for a number of events led by the council's Arts & Events Team.

Whilst no further equalities provision would be directly commissioned, one off additional funding of £6,000 per year for three years will be added to the existing small grants programme for eligible local VCS organisations to apply for grant funding for equalities projects. The budget for this fund will come from the existing budget for equalities. The fund shall be used as part of the mitigation against the impacts on protected characteristic groups as a result of the review, as identified in the Equalities Impact Assessment.

£10,000 will be allocated in 2021/22 to a transition fund for grants to local VCS organisations to ease the transition to the new model and mitigate against any equalities impacts. The fund will be administered by the organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub. The organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub is being commissioned through the council's usual procurement procedures. The model includes a built-in assessment of the ability of applicant organisations to administer grants.

The decision not to renew core funding to certain existing provision was based on the new networks assuming responsibility for some services and bringing the council into line with most other boroughs in not directly commissioning the provision.

Under the existing provision, the total cost of all services is £192,000. The new provision creates efficiencies within the same overall budget. There is the potential to make savings of 7.81% of the existing expenditure from 2022/23, reducing annual costs by £15,000.

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