

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 5.15 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 17 JANUARY 2017**

**MP702, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON E14 2BG.**

**Members Present:**

Mayor John Biggs (Chair)	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing Management & Performance)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Cabinet Member for Culture)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Resources)

**Commissioners Present:**

Max Caller	(Commissioner)
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**Officers Present:**

Zena Cooke	– (Corporate Director, Resources)
Steve Hill	– (Head of Grants & Benefits Service)
Sade Johnson	– (Localisation Manager)
Abdul J. Khan	– (Sustainable Development Manager, Strategy Innovation & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Vicky Allen	– (Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, Strategy, Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, Chief Executive's)
Antonella Burgio	– (Democratic Services)

**ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Edgar nominated and Councillor Begum seconded that Mayor Biggs be appointed Chair of the Sub-Committee. There were no other nominations, therefore it was

**DECIDED**

That Mayor Biggs be appointed Chair of Grants Determination Sub Committee.

**2. DIRECTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

The Chair informed all present that on 16 January 2017 the Secretary of State had written to inform the Mayor that grant making functions may be returned to the Council subject to Commissioner oversight.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Rachael Saunders.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest were made by:

Mayor Biggs made a declaration in respect of agenda item 7.2 in that he had in the distant past been on the Board of Stepney City Farm.

Councillor Begum in respect of agenda item 7.4 in that her husband was on the Board of Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation.

**3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The decisions of the Commissioners Decision Making Meeting held on 8 November 2016 were noted and agreed.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

Public submissions in relation to agenda item 7.4 'MSG Project Performance Report –Period 4 July-September 2016 were received from the following organisations and considered as part of the discussion of the item:

- Shadwell Community Project re: Glamis Place Gardens.
- Black Women's Health and Family Support and Age UK regarding premises at 82 Russia Lane.
- Tower Hamlets CVS regarding premises arrangements for the following projects:
  - Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club
  - Black Womens Health and Family Support (Russia Lane)
  - Age UK (Russia Lane)
  - Pollyanna (Wapping TRA)
  - Weavers Adventure Playground Association
  - Tower Hamlets Community Transport
  - Shadwell Community Project (Glamis Adventure Playground)
- Tower Hamlets CVS on behalf of Osmani Trust.

**5. EXERCISE OF COMMISSIONERS' DISCRETIONS**

The Sub Committee noted four urgent decisions discharged by Commissioners as individual decisions on 20 December 2016.

## **6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **6.1 WARMTH Project Funding**

The Energy and Sustainability Service Manager presented the report which proposed to deliver a programme of energy efficiency visits for referrals under the WARMTH programme.

Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee and Members broadly supported the proposal. Their comments were noted.

#### **DECISION**

That grant funding of £25,000 to continue the delivery of the WARMTH programme through Q4 2016/2017 be approved.

### **6.2 Stepney City Farm Water Efficiency and Café Upgrade Proposals**

The Energy and Sustainability Service Manager presented the report which concerned project funding for accessibility works at Stepney City Farm which has been secured through a s106 contribution associated with the nearby Ocean Estate Redevelopment.

Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee and Members supported the proposal. Their comments were noted.

#### **DECISION**

That grant funding of £32,500 to Stepney City Farm be approved, to improve the water efficiency and visitor experience around the farm and ensure the community facility is accessible to all.

### **6.3 A12 - Green Mile Pocket Park Project**

The Localisation Manager presented the report which sought Members' approval to passport funding of £30,000 from LBTH to Poplar HARCA for the A12 Green Mile Pocket Park Project. The sum represents the Council's contribution towards the total funding amount of £197,500.

Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee and Members broadly supported the proposal. Their comments were noted.

#### **DECISION**

That the project be noted and approve the funding application of £30, 000 for the purpose of piloting innovative solutions to the A12 as a physical barrier and implementing innovative green infrastructure solutions to combat noise and air pollution.

#### **6.4 MSG Project Performance Report - Period 4 - July to September 2016**

The Corporate Director, Resources and Head of Grants Service presented the report which provided monitoring information on voluntary sector projects that receive grant funding in accordance with the Council's agreed performance management framework. Supplementary information was provided in relation to premises' issues relating to a number of organisations which operate from council buildings which were not classed as community buildings.

Comments of Councillor Harrisson on behalf of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee were noted. The recommendations as set out in the reports and addenda, except that relating to Children Education Group, were supported.

Members noted the supplementary information provided in regard to premises' issues that had been raised by organisations and were broadly satisfied with the solutions proposed. Members were minded to offer a further opportunity to resolve premises issues to Children Education Group and asked officers to engage with this organisation to this end.

#### **DECISIONS**

##### **Recommendation 1:**

Based on the written representation from Children Education Group, Members' views and taking into account the policy in respect of premises under Commissioners directions, the Grants Determination Sub Committee decided **no MSG funding** be released to the Children Education Group but have requested officers engage with this organisation to help resolve current premises issues.

##### **Recommendation 2**

Based on the supplementary information provided by officers regarding Monnakar Monowar Welfare Foundation that the organisation had emailed the Grants Team on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 advising that they wish to terminate project activities, Grants Determination Sub Committee agreed that funding be **withdrawn** and that the termination request be noted.

##### **Recommendation 3**

Based on the information provided in the main report, that the following projects:

- DeafPLUS Employment for Deaf and Disabled people in Tower Hamlets (EDITH)
- Toynbee Hall, Wellbeing in Tower Hamlets
- Somali Parents and Childrens Play, Somali Women Engagement Forum

be **awarded** two thirds of MSG funding due, in accordance with the agreed procedures.

#### **Recommendation 4**

Based on the information provided relating to projects that have improved their performance ratings to Green, the following organisations

- Teviot British Bangladeshi Association – Opportunity
- Wadajir Somali Community Centre – Wadajir Homework Club Two
- Toynbee Hall – Well Being Centre
- Age UK East London – Friend at Home
- Bangladesh Youth Movement – “Live Healthy – Enjoy Life”  
Bangladeshi Women Health and Development

be **awarded** the appropriate funding commensurate with their Green performance rating.

#### **Recommendation 5**

Based on the information provided in the report and submission from The Shadwell Community Project (SCP) – the People Gap, that the significant variation request be **approved** for reduced outputs for Period 4 (July to September 2016) and Period 8 (July to September 2017), conditional on SCP having implemented the following actions prior to 11th January 2017 and 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017:

- submission of a satisfactory finance monitoring returns for Periods 1 to 3
- submission of outstanding monitoring information for Period 4
- confirmation of a clear target date for an action plan to improve organisational management and project management. This plan should include appropriate SMART targets
- better communication systems addressing delays in responding to e-mails and telephone calls

AND

On the basis of the later supplementary information provided by officers by way of update, that it be **agreed** that the following two referral-based outputs that were approved for deletion by Commissioners on 8 November 2016 be reinstated.

- Number of residents referred to other organisations (18 outputs over three years); Referral to and from school (12 outputs over three years)
- Delete another referral based output; Beneficiaries referred from and to Health organisations (14 outputs over three years). In considering recommendation 6 of the main report.

#### **Recommendation 6**

Based on the information provided in the report regarding Citizens Advice Bureau (East End CABx), Tower Hamlets Borough Wide Advice (Partnership), that the variation request be **approved** enabling the Citizens Advice Bureau to replace the Tower Hamlets Chinese Association with the Tower Hamlets Community of Refugees from Vietnam as delivery partners to provide advice to the Chinese community in Tower Hamlets.

**Recommendation 7**

Based on the supplementary information provided regarding Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club, MSG funding **not be paid** on the basis that the grant conditions are not met.

**Recommendation 8**

Based on the representations from Black Women's Health and Family Support (Russia Lane), and their commitment to work with the Council to formalise the premises arrangements, payment of the backdated MSG be **agreed** to be paid and the next advance quarterly payment made once a signed premises agreement is in place.

**Recommendation 9**

Based on the representations from Age UK (Russia Lane) and their commitment to work with the Council to formalise its premises arrangements, the backdated MSG be **agreed** to be paid to Age UK and the next advance quarterly payment made once a signed premises agreement is in place.

**Recommendation 10**

Based on the supplementary information provided by officers in regard to Pollyanna Training Theatre and in acknowledgement of Pollyanna's commitment of working with the Council to formalise the premises arrangements, payment of the backdated MSG be **approved**, to be paid to Pollyanna with the next advance quarterly payment made once a signed premises agreement is in place.

**Recommendation 11**

Based on the supplementary information provided by officers in regard to Weavers Adventure Playground Association's (WAPA) Play On Project and given the premises arrangement is expected to be at peppercorn rent levels for the Weavers Adventure Playground, it be **agreed** the MSG payments are made.

**Recommendation 12**

Based on the supplementary information provided by officers in regard to Tower Hamlets Community Transport (THCT) and that since THCT are not the direct recipient of MSG and the lease is held over, that it be **agreed** that MSG be released for payment.

**Recommendation 13**

Based on the supplementary information provided by officers and the representations from The Shadwell Community Project - Glamis Adventure Playground, and given the premises arrangement is expected to be at peppercorn rent levels for the Glamis Adventure Playground, it be **agreed** that the MSG payments be made.

**Recommendation 14**

Based on the supplementary information and evidence provided by officers regarding Green Candle Dance Company, the significant variation request attached at Appendix 1 (of the supplement) be **approved**.

**Recommendation 15**

That the officer briefing in respect of Somali Parents and Children's Play – Somali Women engagement Forum requested by Commissioners, attached at appendix 3 of the supplement be **noted**.

**7. GRANTS FORWARD PLAN**

**DECISION**

The report was noted.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT**

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.25 p.m.

Mayor John Biggs  
Chair, Grants Determination Sub Committee