

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

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

**HELD AT 6.10 P.M. ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 2017**

**ROOM MP702, 7TH FLOOR, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON E14 2BG**

**Members Present:**

Mayor John Biggs (Chair)	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Rachael Saunders (Member)	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services)
Councillor Asma Begum (Member)	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
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**Officers Present:**

Janet Fasan	– (Divisional Director, Legal)
Carrie Kilpatrick	– Deputy Director for Mental Health and Joint Commissioning
Steve Hill	– (Head of Benefits Services)
Mahbubul Anam	– (Interim Strategic Project Manager - Whitechapel Vision, Place)
Emily Fieran-Reed	– (Service Manager, Community Cohesion, Engagement and Commissioning, Strategy, Policy and Equality)
Abdul J. Khan	– (Sustainable Development Manager, Strategy Innovation & Sustainability, Development and Renewal)
Christine McInnes	– (Divisional Director, Education and Partnership, Children's)
David Freeman	– (Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Manager)
Neville Murton	– (Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement & Audit)
Antonella Burgio	– (Democratic Services)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received from Sub Committee Members.

An apology was noted from Zena Cooke, Corporate Director for Resources.

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Rachael Saunders declared an interest in respect of agenda item 8.1 in that her husband was secretary of Collingwood Tenants Resident Association.

## **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

The unrestricted minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

## **4. GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, QUORUM, MEMBERSHIP AND DATES OF MEETINGS**

The committee considered the report and noted a verbal update that a request had been made to the Chief Executive that the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 be cancelled as the reports expected at this meeting were solely for noting and were not time sensitive.

### **DECISION**

1. That the Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2017/18 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 be noted.
2. That it be noted that the Chief Executive has given permission that the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 be cancelled.

## **5. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

The Clerk informed the Sub Committee that no written representations had been received in relation to items to be discussed at the meeting.

## **6. EXERCISE OF DISCRETIONS / INDIVIDUAL MAYORAL DECISION**

No urgent decisions had been discharged individually by the Mayor since the previous Grants Determination Sub Committee meeting on 9 May 2017.

### **VARY ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair agreed that the order of business may be varied. Accordingly the items were discussed in the following order: 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.6, 7.7, 8.1, 7.4 and 7.5.

## **7. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

## 7.1 Mental Health User Led Grants Programme - review of allocations for 2017-2018

The Deputy Director for Mental Health and Joint Commissioning introduced the report which concerned renewal of grants under the Mental Health User Led Grants Programme which were approved by Commissioners on 12 April 2016 and a request to increase awards for named projects utilising unallocated monies from projects that closed.

The written comments of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee (GSSC) were noted, in particular that project outcomes should be measured and an outcomes questionnaire be obligatory to build an evidence base.

Councillor Saunders indicated that she supported the proposals.

### DECISION

1. That the increased awards for the Mental Health Grants Programme which totals an additional £16,672 for the 2017-2018 year of the programme be authorised.

2. The individual groups and renewed allocations listed below be noted:

Project	Additional Funding	Original funding	Total 2017/18 grant amount
Cool to Believe	£3,310	£1,690	£5,000
Peace of Mind	£3,576	£1,424	£5,000
Upbeat	£3,576	£1,424	£5,000
Mindfulness photography	£3,576	£1,424	£5,000
Performing arts and cinema group	£2,634	£2,366	£5,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£16,672</b>		

3. That the Mental Health User Led Grants recommended for the period 2017-18 as set out at Appendix 1 to the report be noted.

## 7.2 Royal London Hospital Meanwhile Use Community Garden

The Sub Committee noted that the matter had been previously considered by the Executive but was also a matter for this Sub Committee because the funding was in the form of a grant.

The Sub Committee:

- heard that the proposal concerned the establishment of a container grown garden on a plot near the new Royal London Hospital.
- supported the proposal in principle but were concerned that company running the site should be funding the project. It was agreed that officers would provide a response on this matter in writing.

- noted the comments of the GSSC and the tabled addendum which responded to the matters raised by Scrutiny.

### **DECISION**

That grant funding of £40,222 to Core Landscapes to enable the relocation and set-up of their community garden project in Whitechapel be approved.

### **7.3 Schools Energy Retrofit Programme**

The Mayor introduced the item which concerned grant funding from the Carbon Offset Fund to enable schools to retrofit low cost energy efficient equipment.

The written comments of GSSC were noted and the Sustainable Development Manager explained how the scheme would be implemented and the expected benefits.

The Sub Committee broadly supported the proposals but noted that the Council would not receive direct benefit from the proposal.

### **DECISION**

That grant funding of £240,000 to deliver the Schools Energy Retrofit Programme be approved.

### **7.4 MSG Project Performance Report - Period 6 - January to March 2017**

The Chair noted that representatives from Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club, Age UK and Tower Hamlets CVS were present at the meeting to hear the discussion of this item.

The Head of Benefits Services presented the report which provided full performance data for Members' information for period 6 and updates on premises issues.

The written comments of GSSC were noted.

Members were informed that proposals outlined in the Community Buildings Review report were intended to address the performance ratings issues evidenced in this and previous performance reports. These were expected to be resolved by April 2018.

### **DECISION**

1. That the content of the report and the comments of the Sub Committee be noted.

2. That the premises updates provided at para 3.10 to 3.25 be noted.

## **7.5 Forward Plan**

### **DECISION**

That the report be noted.

## **7.6 Grant Support to Oxford House (Bethnal Green)**

The Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement & Audit informed the Sub Committee the grant requested would contribute toward the restoration of the premises together with Heritage Lottery funding and a repayable loan.

The written comments of GSSC were noted and the Divisional Director outlined how the Council would mitigate risks around the loan by means of controls and ongoing review. The Sub Committee noted the intended project outcomes and benefits.

Sub Committee Members and Councillor Golds indicated that they supported the proposals because of benefits that the premises could provide and its heritage value.

### **DECISION**

That grant funding of £250k as a contribution to Oxford House in support of their refurbishment project be approved.

## **7.7 School Clothing Grants: 2017/18 Academic Year**

The Divisional Director, Education and Partnership informed the Sub Committee that the report sought the continuation of the discretionary clothing grant in the academic year 2017/18.

The written comments of GSSC were noted and Members were informed that

- families claiming working tax credit would be able to apply although benefits financial thresholds operated by the Department of Work and Pensions applied.
- That the award was advertised via the Council website

Members recommended that there should be adequate signposting for the award.

### **DECISION**

2.1 That the provision by the Council of school clothing grants in 2017/18 within the budget specified in paragraph 5.1 of the report be approved.

2.2 That the Corporate Director Resources or her duly authorised representatives be authorised to be able to determine the granting of funds from that budget on a time for time basis for the purposes of carrying out the activities described in this report.

3

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

The Clerk informed the Chair that the Community Buildings Review – Extended Scope report had been supplied for publication in accordance with the statutory deadlines but due to a clerical error had been omitted from the agenda. The Sub Committee was asked to consider the report as an item of urgent business since the content would impact future project monitoring.

### **8.1 Community Buildings Review - Extended Scope**

The Service Manager, Community Cohesion, Engagement and Commissioning presented the report which asked the Sub Committee to consider proposals to address financial issues affecting otherwise successful projects which operated from premises but which fell outside of the 'community building' category. The report outlined proposals to review and extend the range of premises that could be considered in the category (dependent on the extent of community use), and to eliminate current anomalies and to maximise the usage of buildings for community use.

The Chair noted that the proposal was a matter for the Cabinet, (the parent committee), but agreed that it was appropriate to seek the views of the Sub Committee as this had responsibility for grants upon which community associations and projects relied.

The written comments of GSSC were noted and Sub Committee indicated its support for the proposal. Additionally Members wished the policy to ensure that well run tenants associations were supported.

### **DECISION**

1. That it be agreed that the scope of the review of Council owned community buildings occupied by voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations agreed by Cabinet on 1 November 2016 to include all Council owned buildings occupied by VCS organisations be extended;
2. That it be agreed that the process and criteria for reduced rent agreed by Cabinet on 1 November 2016 be extended to apply to all Council buildings and reviewed to ensure they are appropriate in the context of the wider review of Council support to the VCS; and

3. That it be agreed that further work is carried out to explore the potential unintended consequences for local services of implementing the new arrangements and ways of mitigating the impact, including exploring possible transitional arrangements for organisations affected by the changes, where appropriate.

The meeting ended at 7.08 p.m.

Mayor John Biggs (Chair),  
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee