

# GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB- COMMITTEE

## MAYOR

Mayor John Biggs

## MEMBERS

Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Denise Jones	(Cabinet Member for Health & Adult Services)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

### Deputies:

Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Youth)
Councillor David Edgar	(Cabinet Member for Resources)
Councillor Amina Ali	(Cabinet Member for Environment)

[The quorum for the meeting is 3 Members]

## MEETING DETAILS

**Tuesday, 13 March 2018 at 5.00 p.m.**  
**Council Chamber, 1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, London, E14  
2BG**

**The meeting is open to the public to attend.**

### Further Information

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Grants Determination Sub-Committee.

#### Contact for further enquiries:

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1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** 5 - 7
3. **UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**  
To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018. (To follow)
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 DISCRETIONS / INDIVIDUAL MAYORAL DECISION**
6. **REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**
  - 6 .1 **Goodman's Fields NHS Provision - Committee Grant** 9 - 22
  - 6 .2 **Ageing Well Small Grants - 2018/19** 23 - 36
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  - 6 .5 **MSG Update Report** (To follow)
7. **ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

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# Agenda Item 2.

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS - NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER**

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Members' Code of Conduct at Part 5.1 of the Council's Constitution.

Please note that the question of whether a Member has an interest in any matter, and whether or not that interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, is for that Member to decide. Advice is available from officers as listed below but they cannot make the decision for the Member. If in doubt as to the nature of an interest it is advisable to seek advice **prior** to attending a meeting.

### **Interests and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)**

You have an interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to or is likely to affect any of the persons, bodies or matters listed in section 4.1 (a) of the Code of Conduct; and might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial position of yourself, a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association, to a greater extent than the majority of other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected.

You must notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any such interest, for inclusion in the Register of Members' Interests which is available for public inspection and on the Council's Website.

Once you have recorded an interest in the Register, you are not then required to declare that interest at each meeting where the business is discussed, unless the interest is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

A DPI is defined in Regulations as a pecuniary interest of any of the descriptions listed at **Appendix A** overleaf. Please note that a Member's DPIs include his/her own relevant interests and also those of his/her spouse or civil partner; or a person with whom the Member is living as husband and wife; or a person with whom the Member is living as if they were civil partners; if the Member is aware that that other person has the interest.

### **Effect of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on participation at meetings**

Where you have a DPI in any business of the Council you must, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the authority's Monitoring Officer following consideration by the Dispensations Sub-Committee of the Standards Advisory Committee:-

- not seek to improperly influence a decision about that business; and
- not exercise executive functions in relation to that business.

If you are present at a meeting where that business is discussed, you must:-

- Disclose to the meeting the existence and nature of the interest at the start of the meeting or when the interest becomes apparent, if later; and
- Leave the room (including any public viewing area) for the duration of consideration and decision on the item and not seek to influence the debate or decision

When declaring a DPI, Members should specify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which the interest relates. This procedure is designed to assist the public's understanding of the meeting and to enable a full record to be made in the minutes of the meeting.

Where you have a DPI in any business of the authority which is not included in the Member's register of interests and you attend a meeting of the authority at which the business is considered, in addition to disclosing the interest to that meeting, you must also within 28 days notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest for inclusion in the Register.

**Further advice**

For further advice please contact:-

Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Tel 020 7364 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	<p>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.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>
Contracts	<p>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—</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
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	<p>Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(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.</p>

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<b>Cabinet Decision – Grants Determination Sub-Committee</b>  13 March 2018	
<b>Report of:</b> Denise Radley, Corporate Director, Health, Adults and Community	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Goodman’s field: Approval of the Allocation of S106 and CIL Funding, totalling £ 4,824,474.</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Matthew Phelan, Healthy Environment’s Programme Lead, Public Health
<b>Wards affected</b>	Goodman’s fields: Shadwell, Stepney Green and Whitechapel Wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	A healthy and supportive community

**Executive Summary:**

This report relates to the release of up to £4,824,474 of section 106 and CIL resources to NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to deliver increased capacity, access and service provision via a number of premises improvements across primary care to enhance local GP services. This funding is divided into;

1. £3,494,990.79 of CIL
2. £1,329,483.21 of s106

Population growth in Tower Hamlets will increase demand for primary care services. Primary care has been tasked with helping to reduce the funding gap across the NHS by providing more personalised, accessible community based services that will reduce avoidable pressures on hospital resources. An investment in primary care premises is necessary in order to respond to this requirement and to allow an increase in consultations with primary healthcare professionals.

Within the context of increasing financial challenges it is becoming ever more difficult for health services to fund new facilities and alternative funding sources are being pursued to cross-subsidise. The NHS in Tower Hamlets has a successful record in delivering health infrastructure initiatives aided by S106 contributions in partnership with the Council and a capital investment to improve primary care facilities and increase access to primary care is therefore appropriate through this route.

## **Recommendations:**

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the grant funding of £4,824,474 to NHS Tower Hamlets CCG to deliver increased capacity, access and service provision in primary care and maintain continuity of local GP services.

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

- 1.1 Tower Hamlets is one of the most deprived boroughs in the country and the population is expected to reach nearly 315,000 by 2020<sup>1</sup>. Both NHS Tower Hamlets Commissioning Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015 and the Tower Hamlets 2016 - 2020 Health and Wellbeing Strategy highlight the development of health premises and the refurbishment of facilities as key to supporting both the integration and localisation of services linked with local area partnerships. The Commissioning Strategic plan describes the course of action to improve health outcomes for the local population and has a commitment to improve the quality of life for everyone in the borough by working in partnership with key stakeholders including the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- 1.2 Rapid population growth, stimulated by new residential development, is driving increased demand for healthcare provision in the affected localities. The proposed new health facilities and expansion will help build the extra clinical capacity that will be required to meet the increased demand for primary care.
- 1.3 Given the difficulties in obtaining new premises and the space and financial constraints on primary care services, the capital investment will enable GP Practices to increase their appointments and clinical capacity.
- 1.4 The project will allow a greater level of service to be offered to patients. The Goodman's field proposal will deliver a new, fully equipped modern health facility with 24 clinical rooms in the South West Locality, with capacity for up to 25,000 registered patients (an increase of 8k new patients), which will also provide up to 50,400 new patient appointments.
- 1.5 Finances will be spent in accordance with the s106 obligation and will deliver projects identified and agreed with the contributors in compliance with the s106 agreement.

### **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Doing nothing, would not achieve the objective to increase capacity, access and service provision in primary healthcare and additionally lead to the impact of development across the Borough upon health services to be unmitigated.

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<sup>1</sup> GLA Population Project, 2014 round , Short Term Trend

- 2.2 Tower Hamlets has one of the lowest healthy life expectancies for both men and women in the country and health inequalities particularly for BME people are a significant challenge for our communities. Additional infrastructure for GP services will provide additional resource for the council's Public Health service (through commissioning) and local health partners to tackle these health inequalities and improve outcomes for local residents.
- 2.3 The Whitechapel region where the Goodman Fields proposal is located is particularly in need of additional health infrastructure, and extending healthcare provision in this ward will particularly affect several groups who are often disadvantaged with regards to access to healthcare. According to the 2011 census, 59% of the people living in this ward are BME, the proportion of socially rented households is almost double the London average and 13% of the population are classed as long term unemployed. Health inequalities research over the past decade has strongly indicated that low income and ethnic minority households are significantly more likely to experience poorer health outcomes. The Goodman's Fields Health Centre will therefore be increasing health service availability in a location of appropriate need.

### **3. DETAILS OF REPORT – Goodman's Field**

- 3.1. The Goodman's Fields Health Centre premises will be constructed to shell and core specification by the site developer, Berkeley Homes (Capital) PLC, in fulfilment of a planning obligation under the terms of a Section 106 Agreement. The premises will comprise a gross internal area of 1,630m<sup>2</sup>. The building is expected to be completed and handed over to the NHS in March 2019. The fit out works is expected to take approximately 11 months, with the health centre becoming fully operational in October 2020.
- 3.2. The fitted-out premises will provide 24 clinical rooms, a multi-purpose group room, counselling room and dedicated GP training rooms. The additional capacity provided in the new building will enable the GP practices to deliver an extended range of integrated primary and community health services to tackle health inequalities and improve health outcomes for their patients, in line with the objectives and goals set out in the Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020. The facility will also be equipped with the latest information technology to enable patients to access a wide range of primary care services online and to facilitate integrated working across health and social care.
- 3.3. The Whitechapel and City Wellbeing GP practices currently have a combined list size of 17,000 patients but neither of these existing practice premises have sufficient capacity to meet the expected demand for primary care services arising from planned population growth in the Shadwell, Stepney Green and Whitechapel Wards which are served by the two practices. The population in these wards is forecast to increase from 45,900 in 2018/19 to 54,360 in 2024/25.

3.4. The City Wellbeing Practice is now operating at full capacity and has closed its list to new patients. The Whitechapel Practice is also nearing full operational capacity, but is continuing to register new patients for the time being. Due to capacity constraints at its Whitechapel premises, the Whitechapel Practice also currently operates a branch surgery at Portsoken Health Centre in the City. The new facility at Goodman's Fields will enable the Whitechapel Practice to consolidate all of its services onto a single site.

3.5. The Goodman's Fields Health Centre will provide the modern facilities and clinical capacity needed to enable both the Whitechapel and City Wellbeing GP practices to grow their combined patient list to 25,000.

3.6. The s106 / CIL contributions funding the project are outlined below.

Description	Amount	Funding Source	Funding (Capital/ Revenue)
Construction cost including prelims	1,339,052	S106 / CIL	Capital
Construction cost including prelims	859,083	CIL	Capital
Professional fees	329,720	CIL	Capital
Equipment, IT, project and legal costs	828,805	CIL	Capital
Contingency and inflation	787,365	CIL	Capital
VAT (less estimate for VAT recovery)	680,449	CIL	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,824,474</b>		

3.8 The expected timelines are as below;

<b>Project Outputs/Milestone and Spend Profile</b>		
Milestone Title	Baseline Spend	Baseline Delivery Date
NHS Business Case	75,000	September 2018
Contractor appointed	320,000	April 2019
Commencement on site	65,000	July 2019
Practical completion	2,400,000	March 2020
NHS commissioning	1,350,000	May 2020
Facilities open to public	300,000	June 2020
Publicity and comms	150,000	June 2020
Project final account	164,474	June 2021
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,824,474</b>	

3.9 The funding will only be released to TH CCG once confirmation is received that the works have been satisfactorily completed. The oversight for the delivery of this project and general monitoring of healthcare capacity will be undertaken by the Tower Hamlets Together Capital and Estates group, which has representatives from the Council, TH CCG, Barts Health and the East

London Foundation Trust. Public Health proposes to sponsor this programme of works.

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

4.1 This report recommends the Grants Determination Sub-committee to approve Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) grant funding totalling up to £4,824,474 for capital works to GP practice premises. The cost of these works will be covered within existing S106 and CIL funding.

#### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

5.1 Whilst there is no strict legal definition of grant, a grant is in the nature of a gift and is based in trust law. However, grants are often given for a purpose so it is sometimes unclear whether a grant has been made or the arrangement is a contract for services.

5.2 There will be many grants which are made by the Council for the purpose of discharging one of its statutory duties. However, as a grant is in the nature of a gift, it is considered there must be some element of discretion on the part of the Council as grantor as to whom a grant is made to and whether this is made. If the Council is under a legal duty to provide a payment to a specific individual or organisation, and cannot lawfully elect not to make such a payment, then that should not amount to a grant.

5.3 Section 106 Planning Obligations are obligations secured pursuant to section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Such Planning obligations, commonly known as s.106 agreements, are the mechanism whereby development proposals which would otherwise not be acceptable can be made acceptable in planning terms. As a contract the Council is required to spend any monies received in accordance with the terms of the s.106 agreement. However, most agreements are general in respect of projects upon which the section 106 monies are spent. Being general, the Council is not under a legal duty to pay the money to specific organisations/ projects. By definition, these payments are therefore grants.

5.4 Likewise, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a £ per square metre planning charge introduced by the Planning Act 2008 as a tool to assist authorities to help deliver infrastructure to support the development of their area. In accordance with the Regulation 123 of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, the Council has prepared a list of infrastructure items that the Council intends, will be, or may or partially funded by CIL. However, CIL is not paid in respect of specific projects and as the Council is not under a legal duty to pay the money to specific organisations/ projects. By definition, these payments are also grants.

5.5 There is a need to ensure that the Council has the power to make the grants in question. In that regard, the proposed grants are supported by the

Council's general power of competence. Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to specified restrictions and limitations imposed by other statutes.

- 5.6 The Council is obliged as a best value authority under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness" (the Best Value Duty). This means that the Council will have to ensure that any grant is made under terms that enable monitoring to demonstrate that the money achieves the appropriate outcomes for which it was given.
- 5.7 When implementing the scheme, the Council must ensure that no part of the funds issued represents a profit element to any of the recipients. The inclusion of profit or the opportunity of making a profit from the grant or third parties indicates that the grant is really procurement activity and would otherwise be subject to the Council's Procurement Procedures and other appropriate domestic and European law. This would mean therefore, that the Council would have failed to abide by the appropriate internal procedures and external law applicable to such purchases.
- 5.8 When making grants decisions, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty). A proportionate level of equality analysis is required to discharge the duty and information relevant to this is contained in the One Tower Hamlets section of the report.

## **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1. The proposed buildings and improvements will increase capacity and access to provide more clinical appointments to all service users in the local population. These enhancements will benefit service users, in particular those who are more reliant upon health services including families with children, older people and those with complex health issues (including the disabled).
- 6.2. The project will not adversely affect people with protected characteristics.
- 6.3. Equalities Analysis have been completed on the proposal and can be found in the background documents.

## **7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. The delivery of this project ensures the Council meets its s106 obligations and spends funds in accordance with the agreement.

7.2. The project directly supports the HWB strategy to improve and develop local services; it also supports the Tower Hamlets' Commissioning Strategic Plan 2012 – 2015.

7.3. Additionally, through investing in primary care services, preventative steps are being taken to reduce demand upon hospital services which can often be more costly, thus supporting best value.

## **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

8.1. There are no implications.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1. There is a risk that if the project is not approved, the benefits identified for the project relating to increased and improved access to local services, improved patient experience, increased GP registrations in the area will not be realised.

9.2. In addition if this is not approved then as it is proposing the delivery of works in accordance with S106 requirements then there is a risk of non-fulfilment of S106 requirements, particularly those which are time sensitive.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. There are no crime or disorder implications.

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

11.1. There are no safeguarding implications

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

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

- NONE

### **Background Documents**

- Goodman's Fields Equalities Analysis

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

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## EQUALITY ANALYSIS QUALITY ASSURANCE CHECKLIST

<p><b>Name of 'proposal' and how has it been implemented</b> (proposal can be a policy, service, function, strategy, project, procedure, restructure/savings proposal)</p>	<p><b>Maximising Health Infrastructure – Goodman's Fields Health Centre</b> proposals for the relocation of the Whitechapel and City Wellbeing GP practices from their existing under-sized premises to a new health centre within the Goodman's Fields development at Aldgate.</p>
<p><b>Directorate / Service</b></p>	<p><b>Public Health</b></p>
<p><b>Lead Officer</b></p>	<p><b>Matthew Phelan</b></p>
<p><b>Signed Off By (inc date)</b></p>	<p><b>Abigail Knight</b></p>
<p><b>Summary – to be completed at the end of completing the QA (using Appendix A)</b></p>	<p><b>Example</b></p> <p> Proceed with implementation</p> <p>According to the 2011 census, 59% of the people living in this ward are BME, the proportion of socially rented households is almost double the London average and 13% of the population are classed as long term unemployed.</p> <p>Health inequalities research over the past decade has strongly indicated that low income and ethnic minority households are significantly more likely to experience poorer health outcomes. The Goodman's Fields Health Centre will therefore be increasing health service availability in a location of appropriate need.</p>

	<p>The Goodman’s Fields Health Centre will be fully compliant with the requirements and philosophy of the 2010 Equality Act and the Disability Equality Duty contained within the Disability Discrimination Act. All referenced standards and planning guidance within these documents will be adhered to.</p> <p>I would therefore suggest that this project meet the criteria of the Public Equality Duty contained within the Equality Act 2010</p>
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Stage	Checklist Area / Question	Yes / No / Unsure	Comment (If the answer is no/unsure, please ask the question to the SPP Service Manager or nominated equality lead to clarify)
<b>1</b>	<b>Overview of Proposal</b>		
a	Are the outcomes of the proposals clear?	Yes	<p>This project will involve the major construction works associated with remodelling, extending, and suitably fitting out, the ground floor and single storey Island Medical Centre. The development will provide four additional clinical rooms at the Island Medical Centre site . The proposed development is intended to contribute to delivery of additional clinical capacity that will be required to meet the primary healthcare needs of the population of the Blackwall and Cubitt Town ward.</p> <p>The Island Medical GP practice has a registered list of 7,629 patients . The extra clinical capacity provided by the proposed works will enable the practice to expand its patient list by a further 5,472 over the next five years to 2022/23. The remodelled and extended facility will allow patients to access a wider range of community and specialist health services that will be provided from the site.</p>

b	Is it clear who will be or is likely to be affected by what is being proposed (inc service users and staff)? Is there information about the equality profile of those affected?	Yes	<p>The new Goodman's Fields Health Centre will provide the increased capacity needed to mitigate the impact of population growth in the South West Locality of Tower Hamlets</p> <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver a new, fully equipped modern health facility with 24 clinical rooms in the South West Locality</li> <li>• deliver new health infrastructure with capacity for up to 25,000 registered patients</li> <li>• provide 50,400 new patient appointment slots in the North-East Locality, based on a utilisation rate of 60%</li> <li>• upgrade ICT and medical equipment to allow patients to take more control of their care and to allow more patient monitoring to be undertaken within primary care</li> <li>• enable an expansion of the primary care workforce in the South West Locality, equivalent to 1 GP per 1,800 new patients and associated support staff</li> </ul>
<b>2 Monitoring / Collecting Evidence / Data and Consultation</b>			
a	Is there reliable qualitative and quantitative data to support claims made about impacts?	Yes	NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group has developed a model with clinicians to enable projection of future demand for primary care services. The modelling exercise, which takes account of population growth and planned shifts in outpatient activity from hospital to primary care, has identified a requirement for the provision of seven additional clinical rooms in primary care to meet demand within the South West Locality by 2021/22.
	Is there sufficient evidence of local/regional/national research that can inform the analysis?	Yes	See above.
b	Has a reasonable attempt been made to ensure relevant knowledge and expertise (people, teams and	Yes	Significant local engagement has taken place on maximising healthcare infrastructure:

	partners) have been involved in the analysis?		<p>The Improving Health and Well Being Strategy, first developed in 2006 and refreshed in 2010 and 2012, sets out an ambitious programme to improve and develop local services and underpins the borough's vision to improve the quality of life for everyone who grows up, lives and works in Tower Hamlets.</p> <p>Furthermore, the NHS Tower Hamlets CCG Estates Strategy identifies a requirement to development new facilities in the South-East Locality to meet future demand for primary care services.</p>
c	Is there clear evidence of consultation with stakeholders and users from groups affected by the proposal?	Yes	<p>The Goodman's Field Project Board is in the process of developing a communications strategy that will aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide clear, consistent information to stakeholders at key stages of the project</li> <li>• issue and publish the key messages to patients and key stakeholders</li> <li>• ensure that the parties delivering the project are aware of their communications responsibilities</li> <li>• raise awareness of the project via the local media</li> <li>• ensure patients and key stakeholders of Whitechapel Health and City Wellbeing practices are fully informed in a timely manner about the arrangements for the relocation to the new premises at Goodman's Fields.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>Assessing Impact and Analysis</b>		
a	Are there clear links between the sources of evidence (information, data etc) and the interpretation of impact amongst the nine protected characteristics?	Yes	A review of evidence was undertaken and twenty healthcare projects were identified in the current Infrastructure Delivery Plan (2016) to help meet the need for primary healthcare facilities in the borough. This includes the development of a new health facility at Goodman's Fields.
b	Is there a clear understanding of the way in which proposals applied in the same way can have unequal	Yes	See above.

	impact on different groups?		
<b>4</b>	<b>Mitigation and Improvement Action Plan</b>		
a	Is there an agreed action plan?	Yes	See the attached PID.
b	Have alternative options been explored	No	<p>As the 'The City Wellbeing Practice' operating at full capacity and 'The Whitechapel Practice' nearing full capacity, failure to deliver this development would create a potential risk of insufficient primary care capacity being available to meet demand for primary care services in the South West Locality of Tower Hamlets, resulting in reduced access, longer waiting times, and an increase in the volume of avoidable attendances at accident and emergency.</p> <p>Therefore the risk of missing the opportunity to support this PID would far outway the impact to the local resident's wellbeing.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Quality Assurance and Monitoring</b>		
a	Are there arrangements in place to review or audit the implementation of the proposal?	Yes	<p>The Project will be managed by NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group who have established robust programme management arrangements to ensure consistent design and completion of S106 healthcare infrastructure schemes within the required programme and budget parameters.</p> <p>The Project Board will manage project delivery against programme milestones and the benefits realised against project objectives and the benefits sought. Project evaluation will be an integral part of the overall project management, contract management and commissioning processes.</p> <p>Public Health who sponsor this project are members of the programme board that oversee the NHS Health Infrastructure Programme.</p>

b	Is it clear how the progress will be monitored to track impact across the protected characteristics??	Yes	<p>The Goodman's Fields Health Centre will be fully compliant with the requirements and philosophy of the 2010 Equality Act and the Disability Equality Duty contained within the Disability Discrimination Act. All referenced standards and planning guidance within these documents will be adhered to.</p> <p>However, if services users experience is impacted, monitoring will take place through the NHS complaints procedure.</p>
<b>6 Reporting Outcomes and Action Plan</b>			
a	Does the executive summary contain sufficient information on the key findings arising from the assessment?	Yes	

<p><b>Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee</b></p> <p>13<sup>th</sup> March 2018</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Denise Radley – Corporate Director Health, Adults &amp; Community.</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Ageing Well Small Grants fund 2018/19</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Councillor Denise Jones, Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Services</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Jamie Bird – Strategic Commissioning Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	A healthy and supportive community

### Executive Summary

Social isolation and loneliness are known to be particular problems of older age and there is significant evidence that loneliness has a negative impact on older people’s quality of life and physical and mental health and wellbeing. Older people living in Tower Hamlets are predicted to be the loneliest in all of England according to a model looking at risk factors for loneliness which quantifies the many factors that can increase the risk of loneliness in older age<sup>1</sup>.

Older people have told us that clubs and activities have an extremely positive impact on ‘not being lonely’<sup>2</sup>. Throughout the borough, there are a number of small groups, often on estates, which go some way to alleviating social isolation. The Ageing Well Small Grants fund 2018/19 aims to provide financial support to these groups.

Due to lease issues, a decision has yet to be made for four applicants to the 2017/18 Small Grants funds. As negotiations around the lease are ongoing with the organisations concerned, a decision is sought to agree to the award of four grants totalling £1,850.

<sup>1</sup> [Loneliness and Isolation in Older People – Factsheet \(JSNA\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> Talking About Loneliness – findings from Community Perspectives on Loneliness in Over 50s in Tower Hamlets

## **Recommendations:**

The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee (GDSC) is recommended to:

1. Approve the process for inviting applications for the Ageing Well Small Grants fund 2018/19.
2. Note the availability of funding for the proposal.
3. Agree the process for awarding the grant funding, and subsequent monitoring arrangements.
4. Agree to delegate responsibility for approving the awards of grant to the Divisional Director Integrated Commissioning.
5. Agree to the award of four grants, totalling £1,850, from the 2017/18 Ageing Well Small Grants fund.

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

- 1.1 To promote independence and contribute towards a reduction in social isolation amongst older Tower Hamlets residents by providing grant funding to a range of peer support groups for older Tower Hamlets residents.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 A decision could be made not to support this proposal and to allocate the budget elsewhere, or indeed take it up as a saving proposal. In this event, a number of groups who apply annually – and have told us that this is the only external funding they receive - may be unable to deliver activities to their members or, in the worst case scenario, cease operating.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

### **Background and purpose**

- 3.1 This is an annual grants fund, previously known as Small Grants for Pensioners' Groups. The specific purpose of this fund is to provide financial support to small organisations to enable them to deliver social activities for older Tower Hamlets residents in their own neighbourhoods. This aligns with Key Theme 8 (Optimising independence and wellbeing: Reducing isolation



and loneliness) of the Ageing Well Strategy<sup>3</sup>, approved by Cabinet on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017<sup>4</sup>.

### **2017/18 Small Grants fund**

- 3.2 On 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the GDSC agreed to the recommended approach for inviting applications to the Ageing Well Small Grants fund 2017/18. Responsibility for awarding grants from this fund was delegated to the Divisional Director Integrated Commissioning.
- 3.3 By the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2017 deadline, 40 completed applications were received, including six from new groups. A total of just over £22,000 was requested against a budget of £25,000.
- 3.4 The Divisional Director Integrated Commissioning agreed, on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2017, to the award of grants to 36 groups, totalling £18,965. The Divisional Director also resolved to refer back to GDSC for a decision around four applicants delivering services from Council premises for which a formal agreement to occupy was not in place. Payments were made to the 36 successful applicants in January and February 2018, on receipt by the Council of a signed grant offer letter.
- 3.5 Grants were awarded in the following broad categories:

<b>Category</b>	<b># of grants</b>
Rent (including room hire)	3
Small equipment (e.g. bingo machines, kitchen equipment, materials)	3
Social activities (including day-trips, parties, or facilitator/tutor costs)	28
Rent/social activities	2

- 3.6 Equality feedback has not yet been returned from groups. Once received, this will be used to produce a more detailed annual report. It is known that organisations awarded a grant include a number of BME groups including those with Somali, Bangladeshi and Caribbean attendees.
- 3.7 Following feedback, the 2017/18 Small Grants scheme featured some significant changes to a process that had remained largely unaltered for a number of years. These included:
- An online application form
  - Details of grant funds recorded on GIFTS - the Council's Grant administration database

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<sup>3</sup> [https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Adult-care-services/Supporting-adults/Ageing\\_Well\\_Strategy.pdf](https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/Documents/Adult-care-services/Supporting-adults/Ageing_Well_Strategy.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [Cabinet decisions 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2017 – Item 5.1 Ageing Well Strategy](#)

- Grant Offer Letters produced for each successful recipient, detailing the value of award, the activity/ies to be delivered and monitoring requirements
- Grant recipients made aware of, and agreed to, the Council's standard terms and conditions of grant<sup>5</sup>
- Responsibility for awarding grants being delegated to the Divisional Director Integrated Commissioning. This contributed to a shorter time between the deadline for applying and initial grant payments being released to successful applicants (a period of just over two months).

### **2018/19 budget and advertising**

- 3.8 This year, £25,000 will be available for allocation to these small community groups. This figure does not include the £1,850 recommended for four applicants to the 2017/18 fund, which will be met from this year's remaining funds.
- 3.9 In recent years we have been in a position to award grants to all eligible applicants and the fund has always been underspent. The maximum grant award available was increased to £600 in 2017/18.
- 3.10 In order to help meet the requirement to record all Council grants on GIFTs, the application form will again be available online. Due to a poor take up in 2017/18, a workshop will be held and support will be provided by a Council officer to encourage applicants to submit their applications online. However, during the development of the Ageing Well Strategy, older people told us that the internet is not necessarily the best way to access (or provide) information, so we will still be accepting hard copy application forms (appendix A). An officer will then input the data onto GIFTs.
- 3.11 Groups who received a Small Grant in 2017/18 will automatically be sent application forms inviting them to apply for this year's programme. Officers will also attempt to exploit networks to promote the grant fund, including through RSLs, Sheltered Housing Schemes and LinkAge Plus. The fund will be advertised on the Council's website.
- 3.12 Applications will be assessed by an officer in line with the eligibility criteria included on the application forms. This will include a requirement for those groups operating from Council-owned buildings to have a formal written agreement to occupy in place at the time that recommendations are formulated.
- 3.13 Small Grants awards fall into the following four broad categories, listed in order of priority:
- a) Rent (including room hire)
  - b) Running costs (including utilities bills, insurance etc.)
  - c) Small equipment (e.g. bingo machines, kitchen equipment, materials)

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<sup>5</sup> [Tower Hamlets standard terms and conditions of grant agreement](#)

d) Social activities (including day-trips, parties, or facilitator/tutor costs)

3.14 To be able to deal with all funding requests in a fair and equitable way:

- a) Budget permitting, all requests for rent and running costs will be met up to the maximum £600 grant award per organisation.
- b) Groups requesting assistance with small equipment/materials and social activities are allocated awards based on the number of beneficiaries identified in the group's application, using the following guidelines:

Number of beneficiaries	Maximum award
Up to 19	£400
20 to 29	£450
30 to 39	£500
40 to 70	£550
70 and above	£600

3.15 After assessing the applications, a report containing award recommendations will be produced, with a view to obtaining final approval by the Divisional Director for Integrated Commissioning. The following indicative timetable shows the various stages.

	STAGES	DATE
1	Send forms to existing recipients	Week commencing 3 April 2018
2	Online application workshop	w/c 9 April 2018
3	Send application forms to new groups	By 27 April 2018
4	Closing date for applications	By 4 May 2018
5	Assessment of applications	By 11 May 2018
6	Write report with recommendations	By 18 May 2018
7	Final approval	By 25 May 2018
8	Write to all applicants on outcomes	By 1 June 2018
9	Payments processed	Throughout June 2018

### Monitoring requirements

3.16 Grant recipients will be required to:

- Submit evidence (e.g. receipts) that the grant has been spent as outlined in their application
- Provide equalities information for beneficiaries
- Submit brief qualitative feedback to help the Council determine the impact that the grant fund has had on recipients

These requirements will be set out in the Grant Offer Letter. An officer will check that organisations have provided the required information. Any

organisation not providing this will not be considered for any future Small Grant award and measures may be taken to recover any funds that have not been spent, or have been spent inappropriately.

- 3.17 An annual report will be produced for the 2018/19 Ageing Well Small Grants fund.

**Pending 2017/18 awards**

- 3.18 At the GDSC on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017 it was agreed to delegate responsibility for agreeing awards for the Small Grants 2017/18 fund to the Divisional Director Integrated Commissioning. However, legal advice is that this would not include responsibility to award grants to organisations in a Council owned building without a formal lease currently in place. Four applicants have been identified as falling into this category. The Divisional Director Integrated Commissioning therefore resolved to refer these back to the GDSC for a decision.
- 3.19 Given that negotiations are ongoing with the organisations involved; the organisations involved are all engaging positively in these negotiations; none of the payments are a contribution towards rent or other accommodation costs; and there are no other outstanding issues which might prevent payment, it is recommended to award the following four grants totalling £1,850 as a contribution towards social events or small equipment purchases:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Recommended Grant Award</b>
Bentworth Friendship Club	£450
Birchfield OAP's Club	£500
Collingwood TRA Friendship Club	£400
Will Crooks TRA	£500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,850</b>

**4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 4.1 This report recommends payment of £1,850 in total to four organisations from the 2017/18 Ageing Well Small Grants fund. If agreed, the total grant payments in 2017/18 would be £20,815 against a budget of £25,000.
- 4.2 The 2018/19 budget planned in the medium term financial strategy is £25,000. Grant awards in 2018/19 will be contained within this budget value.

**5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1. The purpose of the Ageing Well Small Grants fund is consistent with the Council's duties under sections 1 through to 7 of the Care Act 2014 ('the 2014 Act'). Section 1 of the Act places a general duty on the Council when exercising its functions, to promote an individual's well-being relating to their physical and mental health, emotional well-being and personal dignity.

Further, there is a general duty to prevent needs for care and support from developing. There is a duty under section 6 for the Council to co-operate generally with those it considers appropriate who are engaged in its area relating to adults with needs for care and support. Section 8 provides that those eligible needs may be met in a number of ways, including care and support at home or in the community, and by providing the service itself, arranging another provider to provide the service, or direct payments.

- 5.2. When determining the process for approving grants funding, regard must be given to the public sector equalities duty to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010. The duty is set out at Section 149 of the 2010 Act. It requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to the need to eliminate discrimination (both direct and indirect discrimination), harassment and victimization and other conduct prohibited under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic.
- 5.3. The Council has the general power of competence under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows the Council the power to provide the grants detailed in this report if it so wishes.
- 5.4. The Council is obliged to allow fair and open access to all its resources. It is therefore necessary to ensure that the application procedure and the award of grants are based upon evaluation criteria that are in themselves open and transparent and non-discriminatory in nature. Those criteria must also be applied in a fair way to all the applications.
- 5.5. The Council is obliged, to ensure any payments it makes represent Best Value under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999. This means that the Council must make provision to monitor the use of the grants and ensure that the anticipated benefits from the use of the money are achieved by the grant recipient. It therefore follows that the grant should only be given upon agreement of an appropriately drafted agreement which allows the Council a sufficient and proportionate level of monitoring of the use of the grant.
- 5.6. In the event that the Council intends to allow the use of its premises for a cost to an organisation which is less than the open market rent the difference between the actual rent charged and the open market rent should be considered to be a grant under the law.
- 5.7. The payment of the four outstanding grants may be considered to be in the best interests of all and to allow the arrangement to continue to be sustainable given the fact that the sum has been outstanding for a considerable period of time. However, any organisation residing using Council owned premises should do so under an appropriate occupancy agreement.
- 5.8. The Council should note that the application process crosses an election and the relevant purdah period. However, the decision making process occurs outside of this period and therefore, the purdah period should not affect the

overall timescales as set down in paragraph 3.15. However, during the Purdah period all correspondence with interested parties should be kept apolitical and not refer to any individual member of the Council or other person who holds an elected post.

## **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 This grant fund supports the following community plan theme: **A healthy and supportive community.**
- 6.2 Small groups such as these contribute to a safe and supportive community by promoting peer support and volunteering, and ensuring that services are safe to use for all service users, as well as providing opportunities for peer led advice around healthy living, exercise activities and health promotion.
- 6.3 This fund enables the needs of a wide range of clients - including those with disabilities, long term conditions and from diverse faith and ethnic communities - to be catered for and included.
- 6.4 Due regard continues to be given to encourage people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low through volunteering, and engagement in shaping services and decisions that affect their own lives, such as involvement in user groups.

## **7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 By prioritising funding for rent and other running costs, these Small Grants can potentially safeguard the existence of groups that provide our older residents with opportunities to socialise and both provide and receive support from peers, reducing isolation and increasing independence.
- 7.2 Where a grant is used as a contribution towards social activities, the level of funding is determined by the number of beneficiaries identified in the groups' application. This ensures that the available budget is tiered to reach a larger number of beneficiaries.
- 7.3 Applicants who receive other funding from the Council (e.g. Mainstream Grant funding to operate a Lunch Club) will not be eligible to receive a Small Grant, thus reducing the risk of duplication in funding.
- 7.4 Loneliness has a negative impact on mental and physical health and wellbeing. A range of personal circumstances such as poor health, living alone and lack of support network are factors contributing to feelings of loneliness. For such a small outlay this programme will contribute to preventing longer term effects.

## **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 8.1 There are no immediate sustainability or environmental issues to consider. The prospective recipients, as organisations within the borough, would be required to comply with all national and local legislation regarding energy conservation, recycling etc. As services will be provided locally, most of their staff/volunteers would also be local, thereby reducing commuting.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 These are small one-off payments for which invoices and evidence are to be provided and monitored.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 There are no immediate Crime and Disorder reduction implications.

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no immediate Safeguarding implications.

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

#### **Linked Report**

- None

#### **Appendices**

- Appendix A – DRAFT 2018/19 Ageing Well Small Grants application form

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

- None

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

- N/A

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## London Borough of Tower Hamlets Health, Adults and Community Services Directorate Ageing Well Small Grants (2018/19) Application Form

Completed forms should be returned by no later than TBC to:

Jamie Bird – Strategic Commissioning Officer  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Mulberry Place Town Hall  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG  
[jamie.bird@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:jamie.bird@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
Tel: 0207 364 2304

We aim to acknowledge receipt of your completed application form. If you have sent a completed form and have not received an acknowledgement within a reasonable timeframe please contact us (before the deadline above). It is recommended that, where possible, you retain a copy of your completed application form for your own records.

Should you have queries related to the completion of this form, please contact Jamie Bird using the details above

### Eligibility Criteria

- The organisation/project must be engaged in social activities for the benefit of older people who reside in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.
- The organisation/project must have its own current account or instruct an organisation (such as a Housing Association or landlord) to manage the handling of the grant on its behalf. Grant payments cannot be made to an individual or to a personal bank account, or to a savings account.
- Grants will not be given to organisations/projects already in receipt of funding from the Council for the purposes for which financial assistance is sought.
- Where an organisation/project delivers services from premises owned by the Council, a formal written lease or rental agreement with the Council must be in place at the time that recommendations are formulated.
- Organisations who received a Small Grant in 2017/18 must have provided satisfactory evidence (e.g. receipts) that the grant was used for the purposes outlined in their application (these would have been acknowledged).
- The organisation/project should satisfy the Council that it operates fair and equal practices in employment, and in the provision of services.
- The organisation must be able to comply with the following monitoring requirements:
  - To submit evidence that the grant has been used for the agreed purposes
  - To provide feedback on how the grant has benefitted the group
  - To collect and provide equality information for beneficiaries

Where appropriate, forms will be provided to enable this information to be collected and returned.

**1. Organisation details:**

**a) Organisation name:**

**b) Address:**

**c) Postcode:**

**d) Does your organisation have a constitution or governing document?:**  
(please tick one box)

**Yes - please enclose a copy with your application**

**No - briefly describe its main aim in the space below:**

**e) When was your organisation/project formed or constituted:**

**f) Legal status (e.g. registered charity, unregistered organisation):**

**g) Charity/company number (if applicable):**

**h) How many registered members does your group have?:**

**i) Is your organisation in receipt of LBTH financial support? (e.g: other grant funding, rent subsidy)**

## 2. Contact Details:

a) **Prefix** (e.g. Mr/Mrs/Miss):

b) **First name:**

c) **Surname**

d) **Job title** (Position within organisation):

e) **Telephone no.:**

f) **email address:**

g) **address** (to be used for correspondence)

## 3. Project proposal

a) **Project short description:**

Please provide brief details (no more than 100 words) of how you plan to spend the grant. **Please include how many older Tower Hamlets residents (aged 55+) you anticipate will benefit from your proposal** and, if known, any relevant locations and dates:

b) **Grant value:**

How much are you requesting? **Please note that the maximum grant available is £600.**

#### 4. Payment method

**IMPORTANT:** Payment cannot be made to an individual or personal bank account, or a savings account.

**a) Bank account name:**

*This could be the name of your group (e.g. Bow Pensioners) not the name of your bank (e.g. Santander)*

**Bank account number:**

**Bank sort code:**

**Should you require payment by cheque, who should this be made payable to:**

**IMPORTANT:** If any of the bank details provided above have changed since you last applied (including if any related postal address has changed), please provide the old details below:

**Old bank account name:**

**Old bank account number:**

**Old bank sort code:**

**Old address:**

#### 5. Declaration:

**I declare that the information in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge (if you have an organisational stamp please use it).**

Signature:

Print Name:

Date:

<p><b>Grants Determination Sub- Committee</b></p> <p>13 March 2018</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Debbie Jones, Corporate Director, Children's Services</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted ]</p>
<p><b>Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association Annual Grant</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	Amy Whitelock- Gibbs, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Ishara Tewary and Nancy Meehan
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	A transformed Council making best use of resources and with an outward looking culture.

### Executive Summary

This report provides a rationale for a grant of £6000 to be awarded to the Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association (THFCA). The grant is essential for the THFCA Committee to carry out their day to day activities that underpin the smooth running of the service. The Tower Hamlets Fostering service has provided this grant to the committee over the past 10 plus years.

Some of the many benefits the THFCA Committee provide are, being a voice for all foster carers and foster children, advocating for carers during allegations and complaints, promoting the welfare of foster children, contributing to a more efficient and effective service delivery for foster carers and foster children and assisting with the recruitment and retention of foster carers. The THFCA Committee is an invaluable resource not only for foster carers and foster children but also a vital asset to the Fostering and Children's services.

### Recommendations:

The Grants determination subcommittee is recommended to:

1. Award the Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association Committee an annual grant of £6000 in order to conduct their role and responsibilities in supporting and advocating for the foster carers and foster children.
2. Delegate to the Corporate Director: Children, authority to make future annual grant awards to Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association (THFCA).
3. To note that awards to THFCA will be reported to the Grants Determination Sub Committee as part of the annual Grants Register report.

## 1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The reason for requesting the grant be awarded to the Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association Committee is to enable the Committee to continue to conduct its work and activities in advocating for and supporting the needs of foster carers and foster children.

## 2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 There are no alternate options as the THFCA Committee is dependent on the grant to perform their functions.

## 3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Tower Hamlets Foster Carers' Association (THFCA) is a voluntary group run by and for foster carers approved by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Once approved all foster carers automatically become members of the THFCA and can access the benefits of the Association. The THFCA is also affiliated to the Fostering Network and all carers are members of the Fostering Network. THFCA is independent of the fostering service but works closely with managers and staff of the fostering service. The main aims of the THFCA are to:

- **Provide a voice for foster carers**  
To ensure good communication and collaboration between the THFCA members, the local authority and voluntary organisations for the advancement of foster care and foster children.
- **Advocate for foster carers with allegations and complaints**  
To provide individual and confidential support for carers as and when needed.
- **Promote the welfare of fostered children**  
To promote and effect cooperation in achieving the best possible quality of service for children and young people looked after.
- **Enhance service delivery**  
To work closely with the fostering and children's services to identify gaps in service provision, and to improve systems/procedures with a view to contribute to and promote enhanced service delivery.
- **Aid in recruitment of Foster carers and retention**  
To encourage suitable persons to become foster carers through the fostering recruitment activities and the ambassador scheme, attend fostering initial home visits with social workers to prospective carers, co-facilitate the preparation training for prospective carers, mentor newly approved foster carers as part of the mentoring scheme and support new and approved carers at the fostering panel. The THFCA also arranges an array of activities and trips for foster carers and children.

- 3.2 The THFCA elects a committee of 10 foster carers at their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in line with their Constitution. The officers consists of a Chair person, Vice chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, liaison officer, event's organiser and any other role required to meet the needs of the Association. The THFCA committee's key function is to provide a means for foster carers to communicate their feedback and opinions to the fostering service. Equally the fostering service can contact the Committee to consult the views of carers on new procedures, the implementation of government regulations or to inform them of important events, such as the OFSTED inspection. The Committee is also represented on the Tower Hamlets Corporate Parenting Body and the Fostering Network's Foster Carers Association National Forum.
- 3.3 The Committee meets once a month for two hours at Mulberry Place. The fostering manager joins the meeting for one hour during this meeting to receive and provide feedback as described above.

#### **4. FUNDING MATTERS**

- 4.1 Historically, the Fostering service provided an ex-gratia payment of £6000 to the THFCA committee to fund their work and activities. The fostering service also has a monitoring role in ensuring the funds are utilised appropriately The THFCA committee utilises the funds to pay for the mobile phone, events and trips planned for the carers and foster children during the year, foster carer support group expenses, the AGM expenses and committee member expenses. Each month, the treasurer is expected to provide a breakdown of expenses and income to the fostering manager for review. A financial statement is produced at the AGM for all foster carers to view the description of the expenses and income.
- 4.2 In December 2017, the Legal services and the Central Benefits services deemed the payment is not an ex -gratia payment but a grant and therefore needs to be presented to the Grants Determination Sub- committee for approval for the funds to be paid to the THFCA committee.
- 4.3 To surmise, the THFCA committee is an invaluable resource not only for the foster carers and foster children but also a vital part of the fostering service and Local Authority as a whole in view of the enormous contribution and value they bring to the fostering families and foster children of Tower Hamlets.

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

- 5.1 [Within Children services there is an allocated budget of £6,000 and the expenditure is included in the current forecasts.]

#### **6. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 6.1 [The Council has a duty under regulation 17 of the Fostering Services (England) Regulations 2011 to provide foster parents with such training, advice, information and support, including support outside office hours, as

appears necessary in the interests of children placed with them. Providing a grant to the Tower Hamlets Foster Carers Association to enable them to provide support to foster carers is consistent with this duty.

- 6.2 The grant agreement should include a clear monitoring process against defined parameters in order for the Council to demonstrate either: that delivery is in line with the application and, therefore, the grant achieved its purpose; or provide clear delineation where outcomes were not achieved and the reasons for such failure are apparent. Monitoring should therefore include measuring performance against the expected outcomes.
- 6.3 When making the grant, the Council must ensure that no part of the funds issued represents a profit element to any of the recipients. The inclusion of profit or the opportunity of making a profit from the grant or third parties indicates that the grant is really procurement activity and would otherwise be subject to the Council's Procurement Procedures and other appropriate domestic and European law. This would mean therefore, that the Council would have failed to abide by the appropriate internal procedures and external law applicable to such purchases.
- 6.4 The proposed grant appears to fall under the *de minimis* threshold for the purposes of European restrictions on State aid.
- 6.5 When making grants decisions, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty). A proportionate level of equality analysis is required to discharge the duty and information relevant to this is contained in the One Tower Hamlets section of the report.]

## **7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no direct equalities or diversity implications.

## **8. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no direct implications.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 [Should the grant not be awarded to the THFCA committee there is a risk that the ability to offer support to foster carers and children by the committee will be compromised, which could impact the recruitment and retention of foster carers. There is a process in place to scrutinise how the grant is utilised which entails monthly monitoring of the spending and the financial statement produced at the THFCA Annual General Meeting.]



## **10. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 [All members of the THFCA and committee have enhanced DBS checks and have a supervising social worker who is responsible for ensuring that children and young people are safeguarded in their care. All activities that are undertaken by the THFCA is monitored by the fostering service to ensure safeguarding is robust.]

### **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:**

N/A

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<b>Grants Determination Sub-Committee</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>VCS Strategy Delivery update (Crowdfunding, Procurement (Social Value) and Volunteering)</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Steve Hill – Head of Benefits Services Mohammed Ahad – Community Programmes Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	One Tower Hamlets

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report seeks to give the Grants Determination Sub-committee an update on the delivery of certain actions agreed within the Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy (VCS) 2016-19 Action Plan. In particular it details three pilot programmes related to diversifying the resource base of VCS organisations through:

- Crowdfunding, including match funding for new projects
- Promoting social value in procurement using community benefit clauses in relevant council contracts in order to lever additional support for VCS organisations in the borough
- Increasing links and developing projects with the Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets to support volunteering in the borough.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note the progress in implementing actions within the VCS Strategy, with particular reference to diversifying the resource base of the VCS through crowdfunding, social value in procurement and promoting volunteering.

## 3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

3.1 No decisions are required, this is a noting report.

## 4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

4.1 The Committee could choose not to receive an update report but this would mean information and actions regarding the VCS Strategy 2016-19 not being considered by the Committee and is therefore not recommended.

## 5. DETAILS OF REPORT

### VCS Strategy 2016-19

- 5.1 The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy sets out how the council will work with the VCS between 2016 - 2019 to deliver vital local services. It is aimed at driving significant change in the way the council works. Established ways of working will be redefined, so communities get the help they need in a way that demonstrates the best use of limited resources. The vision of the strategy is to develop a strong, independent and thriving voluntary and community sector that works well in partnership with the council. This means a sector which has the resources and confidence to provide high quality services and support all parts of the community in Tower Hamlets.

The Strategy includes an action plan containing 52 actions which are separated into 5 themes:

- Agreeing roles and responsibilities and improving co-ordination
- Promoting co-production and sustainability
- Maximising the value from resources
- Creating a sea change in volunteering
- Bringing together businesses and the VCS

- 5.2 In order to ensure the action plan was genuinely deliverable rather than merely aspirational, the actions were all agreed with agencies named within the Action Plan – including the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services, East London Business Alliance, Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets, Education Business Partnership and East End Community Foundation. In addition, a VCS Strategy Delivery Group was established to oversee the delivery of the actions. The group is chaired by the Corporate Director, Resources, and the members are representatives of the organisations mentioned above.

As there are a high number of actions and the Delivery Group meets quarterly, it was agreed that 4 task and finish sub-groups would be established to meet in between the quarterly meetings and drive forward some of the actions. These include:

- Crowdfunding
- Procurement (Social Value)
- Business
- Volunteering

### Volunteering

- 5.3 The VCS Strategy action plan includes a number of actions aimed at creating a step change in volunteering. The strategy states that the levels of formal and informal volunteering should be developed to enhance a sense of pride in the local community. This would be directed not only at those living, working and studying in the borough, but also those born and raised in the borough but living elsewhere. There is a particular need to develop highly skilled volunteering, and to use the power of those who have been successful in their careers.

- 5.4 As part of this work the Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets were commissioned to undertake a 12 month pilot (1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018) related to volunteer brokerage and with the aim of providing a volunteering service in the borough which included online brokerage support. This included:
- 5.5 **Ensuring a Supply of Volunteering Roles and Volunteers** – by ensuring 15 new organisations are registered and health checked in 2017-2018 and at least 80 new roles are advertised during the year, as well as existing roles. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, 19 organisations had been health checked with 78 new roles being created and promoted.
- 5.6 **Online Brokerage Service** – VCTH has recently invested in developing a bespoke online searchable database called Volunteer Connect. Local people can access this via VCTH's website, view current volunteering opportunities (150+ vacancies at any given time), create a personal profile, express an interest in particular roles, and join the Volunteer Bank to receive alerts about similar roles. The pilot was to ensure that 50 local people per month would register onto volunteer connect, with 600 in total throughout the 12 month pilot. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, 428 local people had registered.
- 5.7 **Advisor Appointment Service** - This is particularly important for people with lower levels of confidence, literacy, or English, all of whom prefer human interaction to online support. It is anticipated that clients using the face-to-face/telephone appointment service will be a combination of unemployed people, older people, people from BAME communities (including ESOL learners and new migrants), students, people with physical health/mental health issues, and people with learning disabilities. The pilot was to ensure that at least 14 people per month would access the face-to-face/telephone appointment service with an advisor – 168 people during the 12 month pilot. As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 107 local people had accessed this service.

### **Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets Case Study**

#### Volunteer Case Study

Volunteer X is female, 50 years old, heterosexual, describes herself as Black or Black British of African origin, is Muslim, and had been unemployed for more than a year when she contacted us.

Volunteer X originally came for an appointment with a Volunteer Centre Advisor on 19 July 2017. She expressed an interest in volunteering with older people or in health and social care. Our advisor discussed 4 suitable roles with her, then sent her details of these roles by email. In August 2017 she went on holiday, so she did not apply for any of the roles.

In late September 2017, when she returned from her holiday, we contacted her again using WhatsApp to find out how she was getting on. She told us which days of the week she was now available to volunteer, and we sent her some further volunteering roles to consider.

In October 2017 she selected the Maternity Mates role at Women's Health and Family Services. We asked her to contact the Volunteer Manager there, and in November she was invited to the Maternity Mates open day. After the open day she filled in an application form and was called for an interview in late November. In early December she was offered the role and started a substantial accredited training course that all volunteers must complete. We asked Volunteer X to tell us a little more about herself and her experience.

**Tell us a bit about yourself.**

*I am 50, originally from Tanzania. I have 2 fantastic boys; the oldest is 21 and the youngest is 9 years old. I came to this country in 1996 as an asylum seeker.*

**Why did you decide to volunteer?**

*I decide to do volunteer because I like meeting new people from different backgrounds. It is also a good way to build contacts to get a job and a great way to gain more experience.*

**How did the Volunteer Centre help you?**

*The Volunteer Centre has really helped me. In a couple of weeks they sent me a few volunteering options and then they sent me contact details of different volunteer roles. I chose a role I liked, contacted them, was called in for an interview and got through the interview. I am grateful to the Volunteer Centre.*

**Who do you help through volunteering?**

*I will be volunteering with pregnant vulnerable women after completing training as a Maternity Mate. I can't wait to start volunteering with pregnant vulnerable women.*

Organisation Registration Case Study

Ocean Women's Association (OWA) was referred to Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets (VCTH) by Tower Hamlets Council in May 2017. OWA is a small community group, providing services to Bengali women who don't access other services. Although they have been in existence for many years, they are currently struggling with limited capacity, as they are run by a volunteer, with some support from other members of their Board of Trustees. LBTH suggested that we might support Ocean Women's Association by building their volunteering capacity.

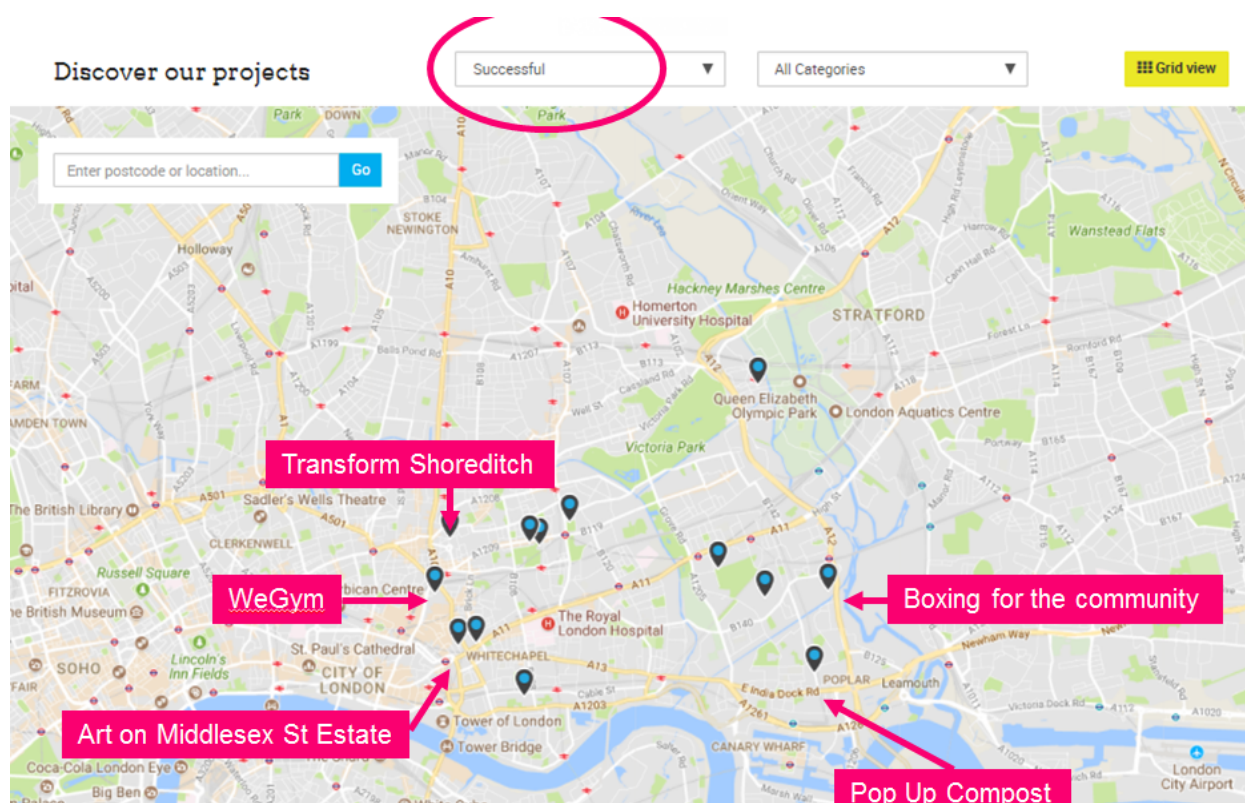
As part of the process of registering with VCTH, organisations must provide a copy of their Health & Safety Policy and proof of insurance cover. After we receive these documents, we meet with the organisation to conduct a basic Volunteer Management Health Check. This is to reassure us that when we signpost potential volunteers to an organisation they have a basic level of protection and good practice in place.

OWA has recently received a small amount of funding to run weekly coffee mornings at Stepney City Farm for older Bengali women. They have some service users who help out as volunteers, but they want to recruit other volunteers with more clearly defined roles. As part of the Health Check process, VCTH also advised them on procedures for managing volunteers. VCTH provided sample templates, including an application form template and a sample Volunteer Agreement. We also advised on a process for volunteers claiming expenses and on carrying out DBS checks for volunteers.

We helped the organisation to think about which volunteer roles would be most helpful, including a Coffee Morning Assistant and a Fundraising Assistant to help with writing simple funding applications (we advised that the latter could be hard to recruit). We also signposted some other organisations that OWA might like to contact, including WorkPath (for employability support for OWA's own service users) and Queen Mary University (for recruiting a short-term student volunteer to design a promotional leaflet).

## Crowdfunding

- 5.8 An action within the VCS Strategy is to identify potential external funding sources to expand and diversify the resource base of local VCS organisations. Crowdfunding was identified as one method of doing this, which has been operating successfully elsewhere for some time now.. In response, the Council launched a pilot programme for 12 months through a contract with Spacehive who are working with the GLA and a number of other councils..
- 5.9 As part of the crowdfunding initiative it was proposed that match-funding would be available through some Council grants. To start with, the Innovation Fund has been identified as a source for match-funding eligible projects. This is a one-off fund with a budget of £120k. As a result organisations that are crowdfunding through the Our Tower Hamlets page of the Spacehive portal have an opportunity to pitch for up to £10,000 (or a maximum of 50% of an organisations crowdfunding target) in match funding for their projects.
- 5.10 The crowdfunding initiative was launched in July 2017 with the Innovation Funding being made available in August 2017. In the first 3 months there were 10 live ideas. There were 5 successful projects with a total value of £178,200. The Council commitment through the innovation fund to three of these projects, who were successful, has been £13,425. The table below, details the geographical location of these projects:

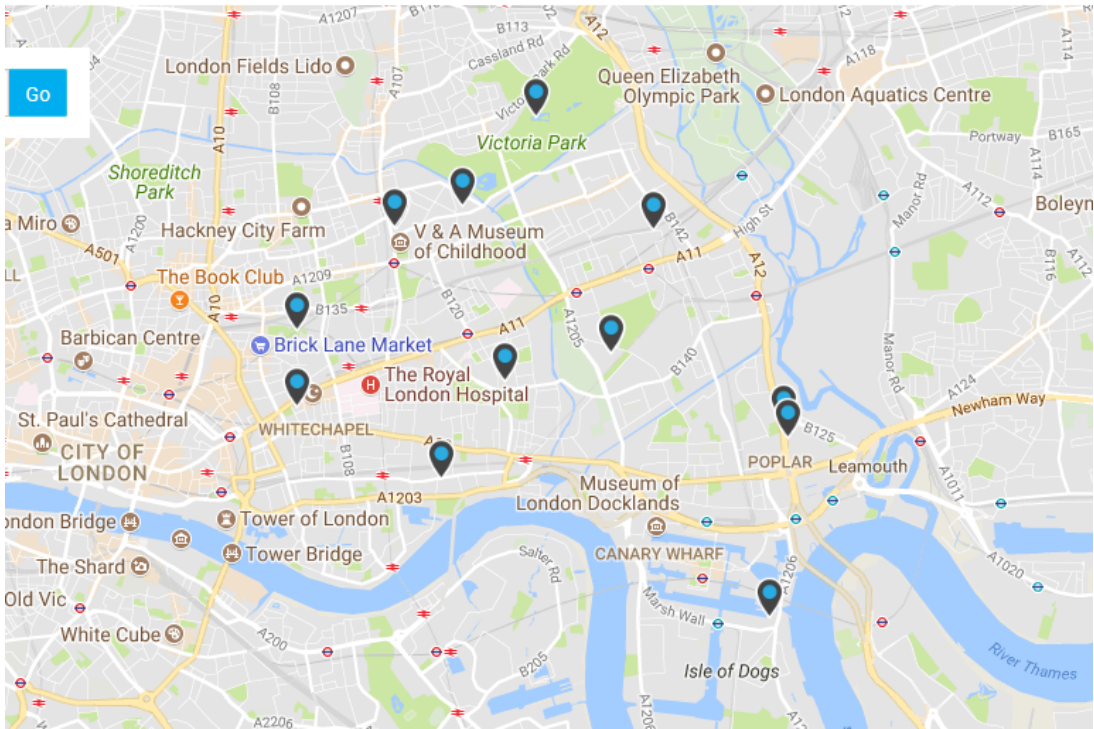


Currently there are 12 organisations that are in the idea stage of their campaign, with a further 5 who are actively fundraising. These are detailed below:

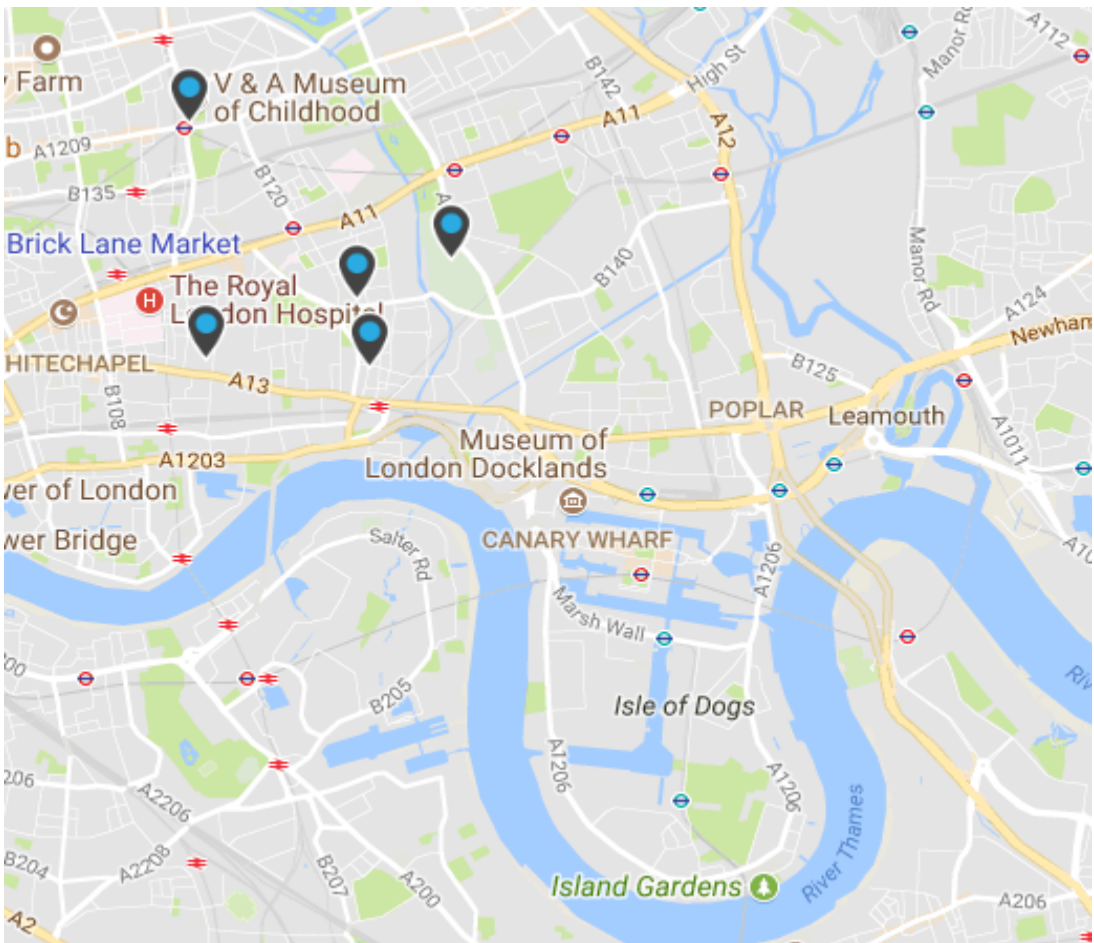


Idea

All Categories



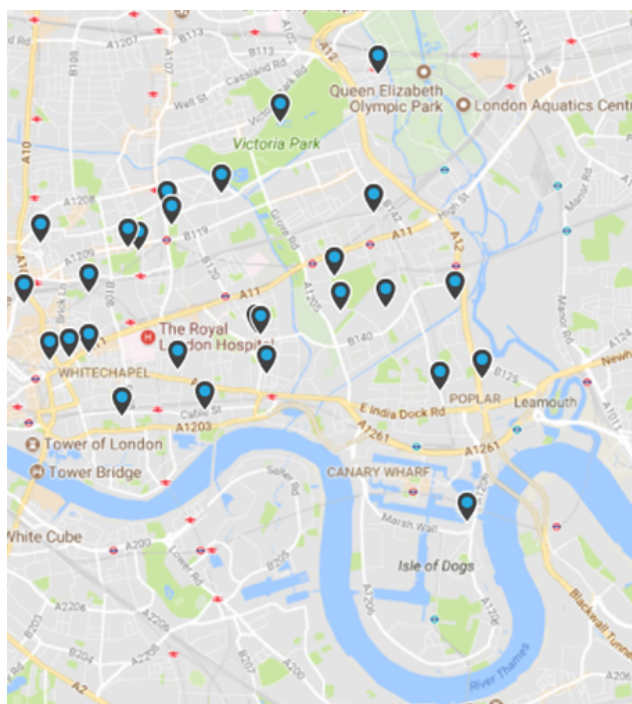
At the idea stage of their campaigns and projects



Projects currently crowdfunding



5.11 It is clear that crowdfunding can be an additional source of income for VCS organisations. Local VCS organisations, through crowdfunding, also have an opportunity to not only seek funding from the Council but through other funders who are active on the portal such as the GLA, Veolia, Better Gyms and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. In analysing the geographical data there does appear to be traction in certain parts of the borough although it has been identified that further work needs to be undertaken in order to encourage organisations from other parts of the borough to explore crowdfunding – this forms part of the next stage of developing the Council’s crowdfunding initiative.



## Geographic Focus

### Where are we starting to see traction?

Bethnal Green, Shoreditch, Whitechapel, Aldgate, Stepney Poplar

### Where do we still need to work on?

Millwall, Cubitt Town Mile End, Blackwall, Bow, Bromley by Bow, Fish Island Victoria Park,

Areas of the borough where there has been traction and areas where we will be focusing on developing the crowdfunding initiative.

### Crowdfunding Case Study – Boxing for the Community in London

This was a project by the Factory East Community Project who were keen to crowdfund for new gym equipment. The organisation uses the gym and its boxing facilities as an innovative approach to engage with and support young people who are at risk of engaging in gang culture. In addition the gym supports local residents in gaining confidence, living a healthy lifestyle and promoting community cohesion.

In particular their campaign included crowdfunding for items such as a training station, boxing kits for children and adult boxers and delivering Level 1 England Boxing Coaching courses to 4 of its trainers.

Through their campaign they managed to secure £2,040 in-kind support through Better Gyms and £2,283 through the Council’s Innovation Fund.

## Procurement (Social Value)

- 5.12 According to the Council's 2016-19 Procurement Strategy the Council spends over £340m a year with about 3,500 suppliers. An action within the VCS Strategy was to use community benefit clauses in all relevant council contracts in order to lever additional support for VCS organisations in the borough and the local community and economy. In order to meet this commitment the Council has recently entered into an agreement with a local organisation Firesouls to pilot support to local VCS organisations through its Social Value Exchange which aims to get new resources into communities.
- 5.13 The pilot is based on a £3.5m works contract. Potential bidders for this contract will be invited to an e-auction where they will be asked to demonstrate what social value they will provide as part of the contract. This would be from a schedule of benefits which has been produced by the Council and signed-off by the VCS Strategy Procurement (Social Value) Sub-Group. As well as office space, material items such as desktop computers and laptops the benefits also include capacity building support from junior, management and executive members of the bidder.

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

- 6.1 This report sets out The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) strategy between 2016 – 2019. The strategic objectives aim to achieve better value with limited resources, whilst targeting more positive outcomes for members of the local community.
- 6.2 These changes set out how the council will work in partnership with the VCS and promote community based volunteering. The current programme cycle of 2016-2019 had £300k set aside for programme deliver over that period. However it is not anticipated that those resources will be called upon as a result of actions within this report, which will be contained within the service general fund provision.

## **7. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 7.1 This reports provides an update on The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy 2016 – 2019 approved by Cabinet on 5 April 2016 Agenda Item 5.8 and the Crowdfunding Initiative approved by the Grants Determination Sub Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 Agenda Item 6.5 (Decisions).
- 7.2 The report raises no further legal issues beyond those detailed in the original reports as the report is an update on progress.

## **8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The contribution of organisations to delivering One Tower Hamlets is explicitly recognised in the approach taken to refresh the current Voluntary and Sector Strategy and the strategy itself. The strategy intends to strengthen and redefine the council's relationship with the VCS and support communities in a way that is flexible, responsive and meets local needs whilst demonstrating value for money. This includes providing support to the sector in a range of practical ways, as well as through grants and commissioning.

## **9. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The refresh of the VCS Strategy supports the Best Value duty through its approach to develop a more strategic relationship with the VCS to help address the outcomes sought by the council. The strategy sets out opportunities to harness local knowledge and partnership work to better deliver services informed by consideration of economy, efficiency and effectiveness including co-production and sustainability and will provide the framework for voluntary organisations and community groups to work with the council to meet the needs of local residents.
- 9.2 The strategy's proposal to move to a collaborative commissioning model with the sector will enable the council to redesign services through joining up resources with partners to focus on improving outcomes for local people in the most efficient and effective way. It will also help to eliminate duplication of resources and effort and develop stronger and more varied partnerships to result in improved and more coherent services.

## **10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 10.1 There are no immediate sustainable or environmental issues arising from this report.

## **11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report.

## **12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 There are no direct implications of crime and disorder as a result of this report.

## **13. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 There are no direct implications on safeguarding arising from this report.

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

#### **Linked Report**

- **Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy** – Cabinet, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016

#### **Appendices**

- None

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

- None

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

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