


Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee Report 28th March 2017	
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
MSG Project Performance Update Report (Addendum) – Period 5 October to December 2016 (item 6.2)	

Lead Member	Rachel Saunders
Originating Officer(s)	Steve Hill Head of Benefits Services
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Community Plan Theme	One Tower Hamlets

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This addendum to agenda item report 6.2 provides the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee an update on the grants recipients identified as being based in Council buildings.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee are recommended to:

1. Consider the report and agree to the recommendations as detailed in 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 To comply with Commissioners instructions that no funding be released to Mainstream Grants recipients based in council buildings until an appropriate property agreement is in place.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee may wish to request further information or alter the recommendations detailed 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Monitoring of Mainstream Grants recipients has identified the following organisations based in Council buildings. For each of these organisations the current status, when a lease is expected to be in place and recommendations to the Grants Determination Sub-Committee are detailed.

The organisations are:

3.2 **Children Education Group (Harkness House)**

The organisation has now indicated their willingness to enter into a lease agreement with the council for Harkness House which the Asset Management Team are currently progressing. No funding will be released to the organisation until the CEG have entered into this agreement.

Recommendation 1 – It is recommended that grant funding continue to be suspended until confirmation that CEG have entered into the lease agreement.

3.3 **Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club (229 Bethnal Green Road)**

Council officers facilitated a meeting between the Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club and Ability Bow on 9th March 2017 to explore the possibility of the two organisations delivering their services from the current premises occupied by the Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club. At the meeting it was recognised that the premises would not be suitable for Ability Bow for various reasons including the building not being DDA compliant and not being able to accommodate specialist fixed equipment. As a consequence the Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club will now be required to confirm their intention on entering into a lease agreement with the Council, at market rate.

Recommendation 2 – It is recommended that BGWLC be given until 21st April 2017 (four weeks) to confirm their intention of entering into an appropriate agreement, at market rate, and that payment of grant be suspended after this date if no confirmation is provided. In the meantime it is recommended to continue to pay the organisation monthly in arrears, subject to satisfactory performance to the end of March.

3.4 **Black Womens Health and Family Support (82 Russia Lane)**

The council has decided that the lease with Black Women's Health and Family Support at 82 Russia Lane will not be backdated to the 1st April 2014 but will commence from the 1st April 2017 and will be based on the current market rental rate. A survey of the property will be undertaken to identify the current rental value. In light of these developments, it is proposed that once updated Heads of Terms are sent to the organisation, the organisation be given 3 weeks to confirm their intention on entering into a lease agreement with the Council, at the revised market rate.

Recommendation 3 – In acknowledgement of the developments for 82 Russia Lane, it is recommended that whilst the survey is undertaken and revised Heads of Terms are sent to Black Womens Health and Family Support, the quarterly MSG payments change from quarterly in arrears to quarterly in advance, subject to satisfactory MSG performance ratings.

3.5 Age UK East London (82 Russia Lane)

The council has decided that the lease with Age UK East London at 82 Russia Lane will not be backdated to the 1st April 2014 but will commence from the 1st April 2017 and will be based on the current market rental rate. A survey of the property will be undertaken to identify the current rental value. In light of these developments, it is proposed that once updated Heads of Terms are sent to the organisation, the organisation be given 3 weeks to confirm their intention on entering into a lease agreement with the Council, at the revised market rate.

Recommendation 4 – In acknowledgement of the developments for 82 Russia Lane, it is recommended that whilst the survey is undertaken and revised Heads of Terms are sent to Age UK East London, the quarterly MSG payments change from quarterly in arrears to quarterly in advance, subject to satisfactory MSG performance ratings.

3.6 Pollyanna Training Theatre (Wapping TRA/Raine Street)

The review of the arrangements with Wapping TRA and Pollyanna has raised a number of issues which require further work. It is proposed that while this work is undertaken payment of MSG to Pollyanna is suspended.

Recommendation 5 – It is recommended that payment of grant to Pollyanna is suspended pending satisfactory outcome and completion of the review. The outcome of the review will be supplied to the 9th May Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee.

3.7 Our Base LTD (Goulston Street)

Council Officers met with Our Base on the 9th March 2017 to discuss the need for the organisation to enter into an appropriate property agreement before mainstream grant can be released. A survey of the building will be undertaken on Monday 27th March to identify the value of the property before Heads of Terms are sent to the organisation.

Recommendation 6 – It is recommended that MSG payments continue to be suspended to Our Base LTD until an appropriate property agreement is in place. An update report will be provided at the 9th May Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee.

3.8 Somali Senior Citizens Club (Granby Hall)

The Somali Senior Citizens Club signed a license extension with the council for the use of Granby Hall on the 6th February 2017. This license is due to

expire on the 30th June 2017 with the intention that Granby Hall will be developed into a Community Hub.

Recommendation 7 – It is recommended that the Somali Senior Citizens Club continue be paid MSG as a result of signing the license extension, subject to satisfactory performance.

3.9 Premises Audit

The Council issued 41 new agreements to organisations to replace the arrangements which were previously in place. A deadline for the return of the completed forms was set for 14th March 2017.

A response has been received from all organisations however further information is required from 6 organisations which is being sought.

As part of this process officers need to ensure the agreements supplied are appropriate and consistent with requirements.

An update on the audit will be provided at the 9th May 2017 Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee.

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

4.1 This report provides an update on the Councils MSG programme, budgeted at approximately £3.049m per annum or £9.148m, over the three year period 2015/18.

4.2 There are sufficient resources within directorate budgets to fund the agreed programme over the 3 year period.

4.3 The report highlights a number of instances where approved grant awards will not be made, either because the organisation has declined the award or organisations have not met project milestones.

5. **LEGAL COMMENTS**

5.1. Legal comments are set out in the main report, to which this report is an addendum.

6. **ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1. These are set out in the main report

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

7.1. These are set out in the main report

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

8.1 These are set out in the main report

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

9.1 These are set out in the main report

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 These are set out in the main report

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 These are set out in the main report

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- **MSG Project Performance Update Report – Period 5 October to December 2016**

Appendices

NONE

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

- None

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