


Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee Report 9th May 2017	
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
MSG Project Performance Update Report (Addendum) – Period 6 January to March 2017	

Lead Member	Rachael 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 6.6 provides the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee with an update on performance and where appropriate contains revised recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee are recommended to:

1. Consider the report and agree to the recommendations as detailed in part 3 of the report.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Regular performance updates ensure MSG projects are on track to achieve their targeted outcomes. This update report focuses on performance updates received during the last two weeks and also reflects recommendations arising from the Grants Spotlight Review panel meeting held on 28th April 2017.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee may wish to request further information or alter the recommendations as detailed within the main report and this addendum report.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 3.1 Since the production of the main report at agenda item 6.6 ongoing monitoring and liaison with MSG recipients has continued. Additionally the Grants Spotlight Review panel met on 28th April 2017 inviting in Red and Amber

performance rated projects to meet with the Third Sector Team and the CVS to evaluate current performance and discuss and provide support to get performance levels back to Green rated performance levels. As a consequence of this work, the following updates and recommendations are detailed below for the Grants Determination Sub-Committee consideration.

3.2 **Theme 2 Summary – Routeways to employment and welfare advice Services – Bromley By Bow Centre (3.5 in the main report)**

The debtor issue reported in the main report has been resolved. Bromley by Bow Centre is Green performance rated and therefore the organisation will receive their full MSG payment for the quarter.

3.3 **Pollyanna Training Theatre (3.14 in the main report)**

As previously reported, there is an ongoing review of arrangements for the Pollyanna Training Theatre which are subject to further verification. Pollyanna has supplied information in connection with the review and this is being processed at present.

However, separate to the review, Pollyanna were invited to attend the Grants Spotlight Review panel meeting on 28th April 2017 to discuss underperformance in respect of delivery to beneficiaries from disabled and ethnic backgrounds. A number of opportunities to increase performance in these areas were discussed and it was agreed that working with the CVS and the Grants Officer, an action plan would be prepared by Pollyanna to improve performance. The Grants Spotlight Review panel recommendation is that current performance is at Amber rating for Pollyanna.

Recommendation 5 (revised) – It is recommended that no payments should be made and the Pollyanna Training Theatre project be Red rated until the satisfactory outcome of the Review (including premises arrangements). In the event that the review is concluded satisfactorily, in light of underperformance in respect of the project beneficiaries, discussed at Grants Spotlight Review Panel on 28th April 2017, performance would then be Amber rated.

3.4 **Online performance monitoring returns for April (3.27 in the main report)**

Within the main report at 3.27 a list of organisations who had failed to meet the April deadline for the return of their monitoring returns for Period 6 is supplied. Officers have engaged with the organisations concerned. The council will be writing to all organisations reminding them of the need to submit their returns promptly.

Since the report was produced the following organisations have subsequently submitted their returns and their performance has been evaluated and is Green rated.

The organisations who have subsequently submitted their monitoring returns and who are performance rated Green are as follows:

- **Teviot British Bangladeshi Association**
- **Island House Community Centre (three projects – all Green rated)**
- **Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre**
- **Better Bangla Ltd**

One organisation submitted their return but upon evaluation is not considered to be Green rated for performance for the quarter:

Osmani Trust - Shaathi Family Support Programme

Osmani submitted their return for this project late and on evaluation there are a number of performance issues that need further investigation by the Grants Officer; as a consequence the recommendation is that this project should be Red rated for performance.

The following organisations have not submitted a monitoring return for Period 6, to date and these projects are recommended to be Red rated as performance cannot be evaluated for the last quarter.

Our Base Ltd – Our Base Ltd have had access issues to premises which have been resolved but the organisation has also advised the Grants Officer that they have suspended project delivery.

Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club

Recommendation 22 – As Our Base Ltd and Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club have not submitted a monitoring return for period 6 which prevents an evaluation of performance for these projects, and as Osmani Trust - Shaathi Family Support Programme submitted a late monitoring return which has highlighted performance issues for the last quarter that require further work, these three projects be Red rated for performance.

3.5 Cubbit Town Bangladeshi Cultural Association (3.28 in the main report)

Cubbit Town Bangladeshi Cultural Association submitted a Significant Variation Request which was considered at the Grants Spotlight Review Panel on 28th April 2017. The panel concluded that the variation request required further clarification regarding the proposed reduction in the number of project beneficiaries for its mother tongue classes and that input was required from the council's Community Languages Team. The panel felt that this work was needed before such time as the panel could provide a recommendation for the Grants Determination Sub Committee on the variation request. The work is being undertaken and the variation request will be amended as required; in the meantime the panel recommended that based on current performance levels and the reduction in outputs, the project should be Amber rated for performance.

Recommendation 23: That in acknowledgement of the reduction in delivery to beneficiaries, Cubbitt Town Bangladeshi Cultural Association be Amber rated for performance, pending the outcome of their significant variation request.

3.6 Princes Trust (3.30 in the main report)

Princes Trust attended the Spotlight Review Panel on 28th April 2017 to discuss their underperformance for this quarter in respect of getting four people into work. The project explained that they had reported one but were awaiting verification in respect of a further three participants who had found employment and the project were reluctant to report these three in their monitoring return until such time as they had received the verification. It was reported that the verification had since been received and this has since been supplied to their Grants Officer. As a consequence of the evidence being provided, the project is now considered to be Green rated for performance.

Recommendation 17 (revised) – It is recommended that having received confirmation that the Princes Trust have achieved getting four participants into work and in so doing have thereby achieving their performance target for the quarter; the Princes Trust be Green rated for performance for Period 6.

3.7 Toynbee Hall – Wellbeing in Tower Hamlets (3.31 in the main report)

Toynbee Hall attended the Grants Spotlight Review panel on 28th April 2017. Toynbee has a target to deliver four workshops per quarter but explained that four were planned to be delivered at the end of the last quarter but had to be cancelled for various reasons. Toynbee advised that they had learned from this experience and would not be planning workshops towards the end of any quarter in future. Toynbee submitted details of workshops that have already been run since April; it was noted that five had been delivered with another five workshops expected to be delivered by 6th June 2017. In light of this the panel's recommendation is that the project be Amber rated for performance for period 6.

Recommendation 18 (revised) – In light of Toynbee Hall's response and their delivery of five workshops already in the current quarter together with five more planned before the end of quarter 7, it is recommended that Toynbee Hall be Amber rated for this project.

3.8 Green Candle Dance Company (item 3.32 in the main report)

The Green Candle Dance Company attended Spotlight Review Panel on 28th April 2017. The organisation explained why it was unable to deliver the taster session agreed as part of their recent agreed variation request. Two sessions are now planned in June. The CVS offered support to Green Candle. Their Grants Officer will also explore potential opportunities with LinkAge Plus and Toynbee Hall to support the group.

No changes are proposed to recommendation 19 in the main report.

3.9 Somali Parents and Play Association – Somali Women Engagement (3.33 in the main report)

The Somali Parents and Play Association – Somali Women Engagement project was discussed at Grants Spotlight Review Panel on 28th April 2017.

The project has come to an end and has reported an underspend of £417.49.

The panel considered that to rate performance as Amber because of the underspend would not be appropriate as the project would have one third of their funding withheld and this would be greater than the £417.49 underspend.

As the project had now come to an end, the panel agreed that it would recommend to the Grants Determination Sub Committee that the project be awarded their final MSG payment less £417.49 (the amount of the underspend).

Recommendation 20 (revised): that The Somali Parents and Play Association – Somali Women Engagement project, in acknowledgement of their Green performance rating be awarded their final quarterly payment less £417.49 in respect of the project underspend.

3.10 Significant Variation requests

Bromley by Bow Centre

The Bromley by Bow Centre have written to the council to request a variation to their agreement. The organisation who provide welfare advice, advise that there is a lack of demand for their evening and weekend sessions and they would like to request that these sessions be removed from their grant agreement. The request was considered at the Grants Spotlight Review Panel on 28th April 2017.

As there will be no impact to outputs in that the organisation will continue to deliver 2,200 “new matter” starts and will continue to ensure 300 clients are assisted per quarter, the panel recommend that the variation be agreed.

Recommendation 24: that the Bromley by Bow Centre grant agreement be varied to remove the requirement for evening and weekend advice sessions.

Half Moon Young Peoples Theatre (3.29 in the main report)

The Half Moon Young Peoples Theatre attended the Grants Spotlight Review Panel and have since submitted a variation request to the council.

The Half Moon Young Peoples Theatre increased their fees from £5 to £6 without providing the council with advance notice of the increase. Their grant agreement requires that the organisation seek prior council approval of any increase in fees. The panel heard that the increase took place in February

2017. The project acknowledged and apologised for their error in increasing fees without prior consultation with the council. The panel were advised that since the increase in fees there has been no reduction in demand or reduction in beneficiaries. The panel noted that 45% of users are charged concessionary rates and that because of demand the Theatre have actually increased the number of groups. As a consequence, the panel recommendation is that the variation request is accepted.

Recommendation 25: that the variation request to retrospectively increase fees from £5 to £6 in respect of The Half Moon Young Peoples Theatre project be agreed and the grant agreement be varied accordingly.

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 dated 9th May 2017 at section 5 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 7 January to March 2017**

Appendices

NONE

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

- None

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