

<b>Grants Determination Sub Committee</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources	Unrestricted
<b>Grants Register 2017/18 – Q1 and Q2 update</b>	

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

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of the Council's Grants Register is to have a central database of all live Council grants. The register is updated on a quarterly basis and disseminated to grant managers for information.

The grants register was a recommendation of DCLG Commissioners who identified that a central database of grants wasn't readily available when they arrived in 2015. Initially the register included details of grants and decisions made on the distribution of those grants. The register has gone through a number of iterations and now includes further information such as whether the grant is delegated, Cabinet Leads and spend to date.

This report gives an update of the first two quarters of 2017/18 and details the current live grants and any decisions made against them.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Grants Determination Sub Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the grants register and comment on what additional information the grants register could contain for future meetings.

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

- 1.2 A decision is required so officers are clear on what additional information the grants register could include for future meetings.

### **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 Grants Determination Sub Committee could request further information or alter the recommendations.

### **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 3.1 The grants register was first devised in 2015 as a recommendation of DCLG Commissioners who identified that the Council didn't have a central database of all grants and decisions with regards to those grants. The initial iteration of the grants register included a list of the grants, budgets, grant recipients, lead officers and decisions made. The register has however evolved and now includes details of spend, whether the grant has been delegated and the duration of the grant. The register continues to evolve with information regarded as useful being added on an annual basis. For example the 2017/18 register now monitors spend on a quarterly basis as this is something that KPMG request on an annual basis as part of their audit of Council finances.
- 3.2 The register is sent out to lead Council officers and updated on a quarterly basis. It envisaged that it will be considered by the Grants Determination Sub-Committee on a 6-monthly basis.

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

- 4.1 The grant register provides a framework in accordance with the recommendations of the DCLG Commissioners.
- 4.2 The register will promote good financial stewardship whilst aiding efficient resource management.
- 4.3 This report will have no financial impact on general fund resources.

### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from keeping a central list of live grants provided that the Council ensures that it does not release any information where the public interest in knowing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the information as exempt for the purposes of the Council's constitution and executive arrangements in accordance with the law. However, it is unlikely that general information such as total amount of grant and specific items of expenditure / results of the expenditure would be required to be exempted from public disclosure.
- 5.2 Therefore, the final format and any subsequent changes as the table evolves should be agreed in consultation with the Council's Monitoring Officer.

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

- 6.1. The grants register details grants to a number of sectors which promote the aspirations of One Tower Hamlets. This includes grants to individual residents and VCS organisations.
- 6.2. The contribution of VCS Organisations helping to deliver One Tower Hamlets objectives and priorities are explicitly recognised and articulated within the Council's VCS Strategy.

6.2 VCS Organisations play a key role in delivering services that address inequality, improve cohesion and increase community leadership. The deliveries of these services are real examples of 'One Tower Hamlets' in practice.

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

7.1 The register gives a snapshot of grants that are currently live in the Council and allows greater analysis to identify best value in what's being delivered.

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

8.1 There is no direct impact on sustainable action for a greener environment

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 A number of different risks arise from any funding organisations and individuals. The key risks are:

- The funding may not be fully utilised i.e. allocations remain unspent and outcomes are not maximised
- The funding may be used for purposes that have not been agreed e.g. in the case of fraud
- The organisation may not in the event have the capacity to achieve the contracted outputs/outcomes

9.2 Individual departments of the Council have in place processes to ensure that risks are reduced where possible and mitigations are put in place.

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

10.1 There is no direct impact on crime and disorder reduction implications

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 No direct safeguard implications

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

### **Linked Report:**

- **None**

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix 1 – GDSC Grants Register 2017/18 – Q1 & Q2 update

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

- **None**

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

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