

Grants Determination Cabinet Sub-Committee 16 th January 2020	
Report of: Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance	Classification: Unrestricted
VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority	

Lead Member	John Biggs, the Mayor Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources
Originating Officer(s)	David Freeman, VCS Strategy Manager Awo Ahmed, Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer & Brenda Doku, Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	
Reason for Key Decision	
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting, and
2. Agree that a new theme be included in the Small Grants Programme for projects to combat loneliness.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are a number of funding programmes to support voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough where decisions are made under delegated authority either by officers or, in the case of the Small Grants Programme, the East End Community Foundation. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The council could decide not to provide funding to VCS organisations through its various programmes. However, to do this would be contrary to the agreed policy to support VCS activities in the borough set out in the VCS Strategy 2016-19.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Small Grants Programme

- 3.1 The Small Grants Programme was established to ensure that local people and community groups will continue to be able to get funding from the council to support community initiatives – people getting together to get things done. The programme is intended to make funds available to support grass roots activity in local communities that will help make life better in Tower Hamlets and achieve the changes set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan and the council's Strategic Plan. By establishing a single grants programme with different themes or activities to be funded, the council is trying to make sure local groups seeking funds will have a one stop shop to get to the funds best suited to their needs.
- 3.2 The programme has seven themes. Five have been open for projects commencing from 1st October 2019 and two are for projects commencing from 1st April 2020.

Initial themes

1. **Innovation** - to encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap;
2. **Prevention** - to promote grass roots activity to reduce the need for statutory services;
3. **Neighbourhood action** - to promote local neighbourhood initiatives
4. **Community cohesion** - to develop community resilience, promote cultural opportunities and reduce social isolation, and
5. **Partnership working** - making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.

New Themes

6. **Community Support Services for Older People** – to combat social isolation of older people through the provision of community based support services.
 7. **Access and Participation** – to establishing access and participation schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities.
- 3.3 Details of the second round of small grant awards are set out at Appendix A1
 - 3.4 The grants policy agreed by Cabinet in 2018 states that all new VCS grants programmes set up by the council should be linked to the Small Grants Programme to ensure consistence of approach and to avoid duplication. The council's Loneliness Task Force has set up a new scheme for small grants to local groups to combat loneliness which will be administered as part of the Small Grants Programme by the East End Community Foundation.
 - 3.5 The Mayor`s manifesto in 2017 recognized the impact of loneliness and social isolation on Tower Hamlets residents and communities and acknowledged the work of the Jo Cox Foundation on Loneliness that is helping to address the issue. A mayoral "task force" has been established to look at what more can be done to address this in the borough working with residents, communities and partners. The task force, chaired by the Older People`s Champion, has set out its aim "for Tower Hamlets to be a place that is welcoming and friendly where people of all ages and backgrounds have opportunities to connect with each other in ways that are enjoyable, fun and life enhancing."
 - 3.6 Through a significant communications campaign in 2020 the task force aims to stimulate and support a social movement of people across the borough that are engaged and encouraged to take their own actions, however small and local, that will make a difference and bring people together to increased social connectedness at street level, neighbourhood level and across the borough. To help this, an additional theme in the small grants programme is being established that focuses around loneliness and social isolation specifically.
 - 3.7 The priorities that are set out in the grant guidelines are:
 - a. A welcoming and friendly Tower Hamlets
 - b. Neighbourhoods that are rich in opportunities for people to enjoy each other's company and where residents can be part of creating these opportunities
 - c. Reducing the loneliness and social isolation experienced by Tower Hamlets residents
 - 3.8 It is acknowledged there are other small grant themes that are supporting work on similar themes of neighbourhood action and community connection. The emphasis in this theme will be on small interventions that work on a very local scale to make that difference to people's lives. The focus will be on

those people in our community who are most vulnerable including the housebound, people with disabilities, with poor mobility such as frail older people and with mental health conditions.

- 3.9 Groups of people who come together without necessarily being a formally constituted group will be able to apply for grants up to £1,000 under this theme. Grants up to £5,000 will be available for established community groups. The total grant available in the first year would be £50,000 which is being funded through the Public Health grant reserve fund. The task force is working on a set of practical measures that we can use to track the impact of the work on loneliness.
- 3.10 This new funding programme will be incorporated into the Small Grants Programme as a new theme for projects to be undertaken in 2020/21. The detailed scheme is set out at Appendix A2.
- 3.11 The Small Grants programme is administered for the council by the East End Community Foundation.
- 3.12 The budget and expenditure across all the themes to date is set out below.

Theme	2019/20 budget £,000s	2019/20 expenditure £,000s	2020/21 budget £,000s
Innovation Prevention Neighbourhood action Community Cohesion Partnership working	90	90	180
Community Support Services for Older People	0	0	100
Access and Participation	0	0	50
Loneliness	0	0	50
Totals	90	90	380

Innovation Fund

- 3.13 The council is keen to encourage and support innovation in the sector and acknowledged that this would require some funding to enable the sector to pilot new initiatives and approaches to service delivery and support.
- 3.14 The Innovation Fund supports VCS organisations to "test and learn" new ways of working, new initiatives and new delivery models that if successful could be scaled up and commissioned more formally.
- 3.15 VCS organisations that crowdfund through the Our Tower Hamlets page of the Spacehive portal will have an opportunity to pitch for up to £10,000 (or a maximum of 50 per cent of an organisations crowdfunding target) in match funding for their projects.

- 3.16 Further details can be found on the [Space Hive Tower Hamlets](#) and the [Innovation Fund](#) pages with more information available in the [factsheet](#).
- 3.17 Decisions are made by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee based on recommendations of an advisory panel which consists of the Chief Executive of the East End Community Foundation, the Head of Corporate Strategy and Policy and officers from the VCS Team.
- 3.18 Details of pledges agreed by officers under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee from the Innovation Fund and projects that have succeeded in reaching their targets are set out in Appendix B

Contingency Fund

- 3.19 The Contingency Fund was set up by the Sub-Committee to extend the existing Emergency Fund from being purely a fund to support organisations facing 'life and limb' emergencies to a fund that may also support organisations facing the impact of a significant loss of council funding.
- 3.20 VCS organisations that meet criteria set out in the Contingency Fund agreed by the Sub Committee at its meeting on 6th November 2019 may apply to the council for funding to meet 'life and limb' emergencies, normally significant financial liabilities that might not have been reasonably foreseen.
- 3.21 Where an organisation has recently lost significant funding from the council the Contingency Fund may also be used to support an ongoing service if an organisation can demonstrate that there is a reasonable chance of alternative funding being secured, normally within six months of the end of council funding.
- 3.22 Awards are made from the Contingency Fund by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee. Details of awards made by officers under delegated authority from the Contingency Fund since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee are set out at Appendix C

Community Benefit Rent Reduction

- 3.23 The Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme was set up by the council to acknowledge the value of the work carried out by voluntary and community organisations leasing its premises through a reduction in the rent payable. The council charges an appropriate 'market' level rent for its premises and organisations can apply for up to 80% of this as a rent reduction.
- 3.24 CBRR is only available for short leases of three to five years. To qualify, organisations need to meet a number of criteria relating to governance,

management and quality standards. Full details of the scheme are set out on the council's website at [CBRR page](#).

- 3.25 Decisions are made by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee based on recommendations of an advisory panel which consists of the Head of Revenues (Chair), Head of Corporate Strategy and Policy and the Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service.
- 3.26 Details of CBRR awards made by officers under delegated authority since the Sub-Committee's last meeting are set out at Appendix D.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The new Small Grants Programme themes set out in this report have been developed in response to the Equality Analysis of the report to Cabinet on 31st July 2019 'Local Community Fund'. All grants awarded will need to demonstrate how they meet they need of our diverse communities and support the council's Public Sector Equality Duty.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Best Value

Recent legislation, particularly the Localism Act 2010, has emphasised the role of communities working in partnership with local authorities to help achieve more effective and less costly services to local people. The process of co-production of services delivered by local voluntary and community organisations is a tool now widely recognised as a means to achieving this outcome.

5.2 Risk Management

- a. There is a risk that, by not publishing details of funding awarded to VCS organisations, the council could leave itself open to challenge that it is not fulfilling previous commitments to openness and transparency. This report is one of a series that will provide updates on funding decisions made under delegated authority and the VCS Annual Report will provide more detailed analysis.

5.3 Crime Reduction

There are no specific crime reduction considerations arising from this report.

5.4 Safeguarding

There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report. However, ensuring appropriate consideration is given to safeguarding will be

addressed in the development of the Small Grants Programme, both through governance requirements and in the capacity building programme for the sector proposed.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report notes the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community (VCS) organisations under delegated authority. The total of grants awarded is contained within the available budget.
- 6.2 A new theme has also been included in the Small Grants Programme for projects to combat loneliness. Grants of up to £5,000 will be made available funded by £50,000 of Public Health grant reserve for the first year.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to introduce a new Theme into the small grants programme in order to tackle loneliness.
- 7.2 The methodology for the delivery of the small grants programme has already been agreed in a previous report in terms of meeting the Council's Best Value Duty and other legal duties. Therefore, provided the loneliness theme is administered in the same way the Council will be compliant with its legal duties.
- 7.3 There are no other legal implications directly arising out of this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

NONE

Appendices

Appendix A Small Grants Programme
Appendix B Innovation Fund
Appendix C Contingency Fund
Appendix D Community Benefit Rent Reduction

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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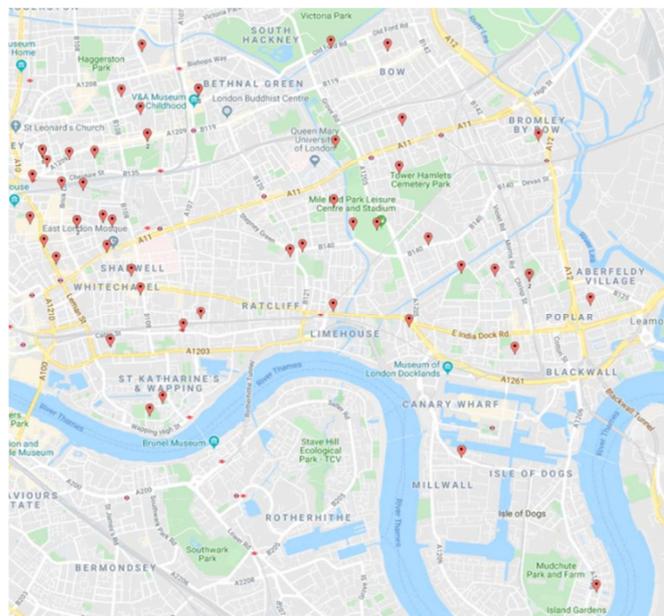
Small Grants Awards (Round Two)

1. The second round of the Small Grants Programme closed on 24th September. 57 applications were submitted with an overall total of £293,899 requested against the £47,700 remaining in the small grants budget for the current financial year.

Theme	No. of Applications	Total Requested £
Innovation	8	37,258
Prevention	11	47,315
Neighbourhood Action	4	15,960
Community Cohesion	30	181,123
Partnership	4	12,243
Total	57	293,899

2. Applications were received from a wide range of projects, though, as illustrated above, the majority focussed on the community cohesion theme. A more detailed analysis of the applications to the programme will be carried out for the annual report which will be presented to Members in July 2020.
3. Applications were received from organisations based across the borough. This is illustrated in figure 1 below.

Figure 1



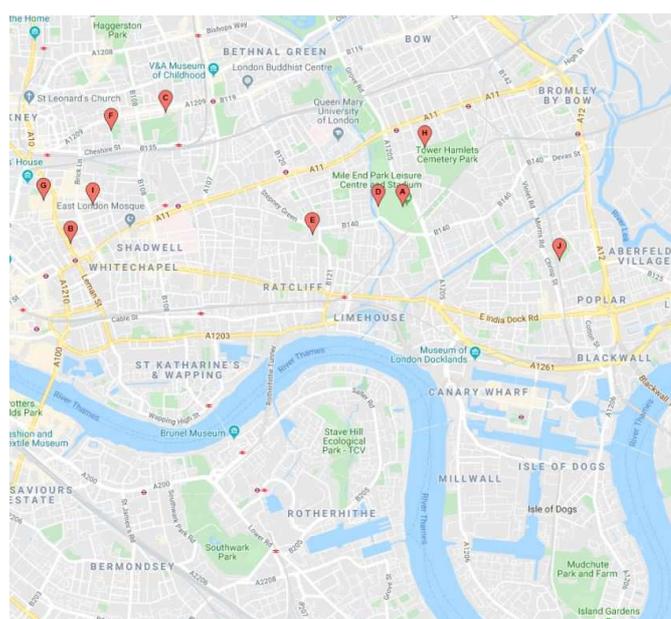
4. 10 projects were awarded funding amounting to £47,691 as set out in appendix A1 below and summarised below. This is a smaller number than in round 1 (13). This is in part because of the recommendation to fund the TH

Parents' Centre community cohesion project in the higher (£5k to £20k) level of award.

Theme	No. of Grants	Total Awarded
Innovation	1	5,000
Prevention	4	18,009
Neighbourhood Action	1	2,500
Community Cohesion	3	19,682
Partnership	1	2,500
Total	10	47,691

5. There is a diversity of the recommendations, across different community needs, issues and themes. The geographic spread is illustrated at figure 2. This is less diverse across the borough than Round 1. There is a particular lack of successful applications from the south of the borough.

Figure 2



6. Of the 10 grants awarded:
- Six are to organisations which were not successful with their LCF bids;
 - Two are from Bangladeshi led organisations;
 - Two are from Somali led organisations;
 - Four focus on older people;
7. The new projects commenced on 1st January 2020. They are confirmed for one year and, subject to satisfactory performance, may be extended for a further year.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Small Grants Awards (Round Two)

No.	Organisation Name	Project Name	Summary of Request	Comments	Amount awarded
Innovation					
1	Women's Inclusive Team (WIT)	Right2Learn	The organisation is proposing to employ a part-time Youth Worker to be embedded at Spotlight Youth Centre in Poplar, specifically to meet the needs of disadvantaged and marginalised Somali young people, particularly women and girls. The worker will engage them and signpost them to the range of support services at Spotlight and those available externally. Young people will be encouraged to take up volunteering opportunities and four workshops on subjects such as grooming and county lines will be delivered.	The organisation has clearly identified a need to work with the target group in question and has demonstrated that the project represents a new approach to working with young people and reducing gaps in service, in line with the Innovation theme.	£5,000
Prevention					
2	Disability Sports Coach	Weekly sports club for disabled people	The organisation is proposing to deliver weekly multi sports sessions for disabled people at Mile End Leisure Centre. The programme will include tennis, football and Paralympic sports and will be led by qualified coaches that specialise in the area of disability sport. Each session will be 90 minutes long and the project will take place during school term time, for 36 weeks throughout the year. Existing partnerships with local groups such as Apasen, Real DOP and Ability Bow will be utilised to recruit participants.	The organisation has clearly identified a need for the project and has a track record of working with the target group in the borough. The application was originally made under the Community Cohesion theme however it is clear that it aligns more closely with the priorities and outcomes of the Prevention theme.	£3,082
3	Somali Senior Citizens Club	Mind & Body	The organisation is proposing to deliver a year-long programme of support for 50 older Somalis experiencing exclusion from other services. 10 befriending volunteers will be recruited from their peer group and the wider	The organisation originally applied under the Innovation theme however the project is closely aligned with the priorities and outcomes of Prevention. The organisation also has a	£4,983

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

No.	Organisation Name	Project Name	Summary of Request	Comments	Amount awarded
			community and will support them at the organisations community hub, as well as conducting home visits. As part of the programme, hobby and games activities will take place twice a week and weekly sessions on subjects such as health and budgeting support will be delivered. There will also be monthly events and cultural activities to bring older Somalis together and advice sessions on financial matters.	relatively low annual income of £72k and has not been previously funded by the council.	
4	Green Candle Dance Company	Remember to Dance	The organisation is proposing to deliver 10 weekly dance and live music sessions for older people living with early to mid-stage dementia, as well as their carers and companions. Each session will last for two hours and will be attended by a maximum of 10 people with dementia. The live musicians will adjust to participants needs and props will be used to provide a visual stimulus. Sessions will involve a brief warm up and then more energetic activities to help maintain physical fitness as well as cognitive abilities. The sessions will be delivered to existing participants that have been referred through a range of organisations such as Community Mental Health Teams, Age UK and the Carers Support Service	The organisation has submitted a detailed project plan with clear evidence of need and a defined target audience. It matches closely with the theme priorities and outcomes and the organisation has demonstrated relevant referral links in the borough.	£5,000
5	Ocean Women's Association	Connecting isolated and elderly women in Stepney	The organisation is proposing to deliver a programme of support for 30 elderly women in Stepney. Coffee mornings will allow participants to talk about health, families and a range of local issues and external providers will deliver talks on a variety of health and wellbeing subjects. As part of the project women will also take part in gardening and food growing at Stepney City Farm and the organisation will partner with Walk East who will lead weekly walking groups. Participants will also be signposted to other	The project aligns with the theme priorities and outcomes and the application makes a good case for it filling a gap in provision. However, another organisation working with this target group, is offering more comprehensive support to a larger number of participants and so this project has not been prioritised for funding on this basis.	£4,944

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

No.	Organisation Name	Project Name	Summary of Request	Comments	Amount awarded
			support services and six befriending volunteers will be recruited to escort those needing additional support to and from their homes.		
Neighbourhood Action					
6	Lower Regent's Coalition	Greening the Regents	The organisation is proposing to deliver a series of events targeting two demographics that are underrepresented in their group, young people and BAME communities. Four canoe-based clean up events will take place and young people will be recruited to take part from schools and extra-curricular groups such as St Pauls way Trust School, Stepney Green Maths, Computing and Science College, The Stepney Partnership and Limehouse Youth Centre. Additionally, two planting and enhancement events for BAME groups will be organised, focusing on areas along the canal that have already been identified, and this will also include lunch and a guest speaker at the Ragged School Museum.	The organisation has submitted a clear proposal which aligns with a number of the priorities of the Neighbourhood Action theme. They have also identified multiple relevant outcomes and it is clear that the project would encourage increased participation and more active citizens. Applied for £5,000. Additional £2,500 to match funded by EECF.	£2,500
Community Cohesion					

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No.	Organisation Name	Project Name	Summary of Request	Comments	Amount awarded
7	Spitalfields Music	Spitalfields Music Community Youth Music Programme	The organisation is proposing to deliver two group music-making projects between January and June. Big Sing will involve 100 students, aged 11 to 14, and drawn from six different schools in the borough. They will take part in song-writing sessions and singing rehearsals led by a music leader which will culminate in a choir performance at Spitalfields Market in June. Soundbox is a fully inclusive music ensemble for 40 disabled and non-disabled musicians, aged 11 to 25. 10 workshops will be held on Saturday mornings and will delivered in partnership with THAMES and Drake Music. This will culminate in a showcase of the work at a festival in June and three subsequent sessions will take place in order to make music inspired by the festival.	The organisation has demonstrated that the project will bring together a large number of schoolchildren from a wide range of schools, as well as facilitating a project to bring together disabled and non-disabled members of the community. The projects will also culminate in community events and therefore the application aligns closely with a number of the priorities and outcomes of the Community Cohesion theme.	£4,000
8	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	Elder Trees Community Group	The organisation is proposing to establish 'Elder Trees', a diverse community group for over 60s in the borough. The group will meet for two hours a week for 37 weeks and sessions will include sit-and-sense, walk-and-talk, crafts, planting and bird spotting. They will be codesigned with participants, delivered indoors and outdoors and will feature group work, discussions and social time. The organisation will partner with other local groups to provide intergenerational and other activities for participants. Links with organisations such as Southern Grove Community Centre, East End Homes and Tower Hamlets Inter-Faith Forum will be utilised to recruit participants.	The proposal is clear and the project plan aligns with a number of the theme priorities and outcomes. The organisation has also demonstrated a commitment to recruiting from diverse sections of the community and has the necessary local links to achieve this	£5,000

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

No.	Organisation Name	Project Name	Summary of Request	Comments	Amount awarded
9	Tower Hamlets Parents Centre	Tower Hamlets Integration Project	The organisation is proposing to deliver four community celebrations comprising of an event marking International Women's Day, a Multiracial Eid Party, an Intergenerational Sports Day and a Christmas Party. Each event will last for half a day and will involve a meal including food from different cultures, shared teambuilding activities and talks around the theme of inter-cultural relations delivered by religious leaders, MPs, councillors and community leaders. A cultural programme including music from a range of backgrounds and informal social time will also be included. 200 people are expected to attend each event.	The organisation has put forward a clear programme of four events and has evidenced a track record of engaging diverse groups in the borough. The project aligns strongly with a number of the theme priorities and outcomes and has a clear monitoring plan in place to measure relevant outcomes. A reduced grant has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	£10,682
Partnership					
10	East London Dance	East London Arts Fundraisers Network	The organisation is proposing to deliver four workshops as part of East London Arts Fundraisers Network, a peer to peer training and networking programme bringing together arts and cultural organisations working in the borough. The network currently includes 40 member organisations, 27 being based in Tower Hamlets, and aims to diversify funding and increase fundraising capacity within the sector. The workshops will be delivered quarterly and will be attended by up to 15 employees, volunteers and freelancers from small and medium sized organisations. There will also be time for networking before and after sessions and the network will work with the Arts Development Team, Tower Hamlets CVS and East London Business Alliance to engage new members.	The organisation has identified developing fundraising capacity and diversifying fundraising to be a key issue for small and medium organisations in the borough and the project is a clear response to this. The project aligns with a number of the theme priorities and outcomes.	£2,500
				TOTAL	£47,691

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

LB Tower Hamlets VCS Small Grants Programme**Small Grant Theme: The Mayor`s task force on loneliness****Reducing the Impact of Loneliness and isolation**

The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has established a loneliness “task force” that aims to reduce the impact of loneliness and social isolation on the residents of the borough. The goal of the taskforce is for Tower Hamlets to be a place that is welcoming and friendly where people of all ages and backgrounds have opportunities to connect with each other in ways that are enjoyable, fun and life enhancing.

We know that loneliness deeply affects people in Tower Hamlets and there are factors in Tower Hamlets that increase vulnerability to loneliness such as low incomes and the dense urban environment. Although loneliness is commonly recognised to affect older people and can be triggered by retirement or the loss of a partner the national statistics show that it also impacts on significant numbers of young people and young adults at the times of transition in their lives, such as leaving home or going to university.

Through the small grants we want to encourage local actions that help people to connect with each other, enjoy each other’s company and enhance their quality of life. We are particularly interested in small local actions that make a difference to people even if it is in just one street and we want to stimulate people to think creatively about what might make a difference. To support this small grants are available up to £1,000 which can be accessed by people without an established group, although you will need to identify an “accountable body” that will support you by holding the funds for you.

We will also support larger grants up to £5,000 if you can show how it will make a difference in a neighbourhood or to a wider group of people as well as being innovative.

Funding can be used flexibly but is primarily intended to cover revenue costs. Funds can be used to fund a whole project or to pay for elements of a wider project there must be a quantifiable contribution to the proposed activity either in cash (other funding) or in kind (volunteer time, rent free premises etc). However, we do not require match funding

The total budget for this theme is £50,000 per annum. We anticipate that this theme will fund 20 to 30 projects with a range of annual funding levels up to a maximum of £5,000 per annum.

Tower Hamlets Plan and Strategic Plan Priorities

C1	Strong, resilient and safe communities	√
C2	Better health and wellbeing	√
C3	Good jobs and employment	√
C4	A better deal for young people	√
S1	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities	√
S2	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in	√
S3	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough	

Theme priorities (Links to TH Plan and Strategic Plan Priorities listed above)

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

1. **A welcoming and friendly Tower Hamlets** (links to THP C1 and SP S2)
2. **Neighbourhoods that are rich in opportunities for people to enjoy each other's company and where residents can be part of creating these opportunities** (links to THP C1 and SP S1)
3. **Reducing the loneliness and social isolation experienced by Tower Hamlets residents** (links to THP C2/C4 and SP S2)

Theme outcomes

1. **Making it visible that Tower Hamlets is a friendly and welcoming borough** – what more can we do to show people that Tower Hamlets is a place that welcomes and embraces people regardless of their background or circumstances?
2. **People feel connected with their neighbourhood and the local community** – what can we do to make it easier for people to feel part of their local community and enhance their sense of belonging?
3. **Less people feel isolated from others or lacking regular social contact** – how can we engage the people who are most at risk of being isolated or excluded such as the housebound, people with disabilities and long term conditions, refugees and other newly arrived people?
4. **Young people and young adults have more opportunities to feel engaged with their peers and/or the local community** – making sure that young people and young adults feel included and valued, develop positive relationships with older people and are able to play an active role in the community

Examples of projects and activities

Some examples of the type of activities we would support (but don't be limited by this list as we are looking for creative proposals that we might not have thought of!)

- Support for befriending activities such as supporting more volunteer befrienders
- Supporting access to community transport to help people to get about such as training for volunteer or employed drivers
- Providing tailored support to help people to use the internet, e.g. to engage with friends and relatives through social media
- Intergenerational activities that bring the different generations together
- Local interest groups that support more social activity
- Projects for young people that engage the young people and young adults that might be less confident or lack the social skills to readily join in with other people, including people with disabilities
- Training that helps people and organisations to be more dementia friendly
- Other projects that contribute to the outcomes above

Eligibility

1. Size of organisation

We welcome applications from small local organisations including from informal/unconstituted groups for grants up to £1,000. We also welcome applications from

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

established community groups for grants up to £5,000.

Organisations with an annual turnover in excess of £250,000 are not eligible to apply to the Small Grants Programme

Individuals are not eligible.

2. Not for Profit

The grants programme will only support activities run by groups which can demonstrate they are set up as not for profit groups. The types of organisation which the Council considers to be not for profit is set out in the VCS Strategy and included in the TH Grants Policy framework at.

3. Locally based

The grants programme is intended to support the local VCS and community activity. The eligibility criteria for all grant themes reflect this principle. Organisations based outside the borough are not excluded from eligibility but they must show very clear connections to Tower Hamlets either through existing activity or local leadership of the proposed project. Applications will be encouraged from organisations based across the borough.

4. Good governance

Organisations will be expected to achieve an acceptable level of governance with appropriate policies for the activities they propose to undertake. The acceptable level will be proportionate to the size of organisation and type of activity. The Council will accept applications from organisations in the process of developing appropriate policies but funding will not be paid until they are in place.

5. Other criteria

We are keen to support grant applications under £1,000 from informal or un-constituted groups but these should be supported by an organisation with appropriate levels of governance which will act as the 'accountable body' for any funds awarded.

Levels of Funding Available

1. Up to £5,000 for one year with potential extension for a second year. Extension funding will be awarded following a submission of monitoring and evaluation information and positive assessment of the project

The total budget for this theme is £50,000 per annum. We anticipate that this theme will fund 20 to 30 projects with a range of annual funding levels

Monitoring arrangements

1. Six monthly progress report and annual/end of project report and visit.
2. Use of a simple wellbeing measurement tool that enables us to assess and track the impact on the residents who benefit.

INNOVATION FUND

Innovation Fund Awards

Awards to date

INOVATION FUND BUDGET FINANCIAL SUMMARY					
Original Budget £120,000					
No	Date	Previous awards:	Amount pledged (£)	Amount released (£)	Other comments
1		Pop Up Compost	£1,142.25	£ 1,142.25	Grant agreement signed
2		Boxing for the Community in London	£2,283.00	£ 2,283.00	Grant agreement signed
3		Transform Shoreditch	£10,000.00	£ 5,000.00	Grant agreement signed
4		East London Makerspace	£10,000.00	£ -	Did not meet Crowdfunding target
5		Bethnal Green Memorial Projection)	£2,889.25	£ 2,889.25	Grant agreement signed
6		East London Makerspace	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	Grant agreement signed
7		Make Caves in Mile End Park	£8,079.50	£ 8,079.50	Grant agreement signed
8		Betar Bangla	£9,925.50	£ 9,925.50	Grant agreement signed
9		Choose Love Mural	£1,263.00	£ 1,263.00	Grant agreement signed
10		Inside Out - Aldgate Women's Oral History	£3,838.00	£ 3,838.00	Grant agreement signed
11		Bee Spoke	£489.00	£ 489.00	Grant agreement sent
12		Maximising the Canvas Community	£5,471.75	£1,000.00	Grant agreement sent
13		3 Defibrillators for Victoria Park	£1,541.00	£1,541.00	Grant agreement sent
14		Ability Bow – Disabled People Get Fit & Active	£10,000.00		Grant agreement sent
15		I am Tower Hamlets	£4,060.75		Grant agreement sent
16		Christ Church Isle of Dogs	£6,309.50		Grant agreement sent
		TOTAL pledged	£87,292.50		
		Pledged to organisations that met target	£77,292.50		
		Released to date		£46,961.50	
		Original Budget	£120,000.00		
		Remaining Balance	£42,707.50		

INNOVATION FUND

New Awards

No.	Organisation Name	Project	Comments	Amount awarded
1	I am Tower Hamlets	4x Community Tea Dances	<p>I Am Tower Hamlets is a partnership between the council and Better that provides activities for the whole community in and around the borough's leisure centres, this charitable social enterprise arm of the GLL group have a range of community activities that promote physical activity across Tower Hamlets.</p> <p>This is a good project which aims to promote the Councils Community Plan theme 'A great place to live'.</p> <p>The TH Sports development team have pledged to this project on two different occasions indicating that this type of project/ activity is needed in the local community and backed by the Sport's Development Team</p>	£4,060.75
2	Christ Church Isle of Dogs	Open to All – Project to replace fixed pews in Christ Church and replace with furniture that can make space in the church so that it can be open for community events and activities.	<p>The Tower Hamlets Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan sets out 20 key objectives that are pertinent to the local infrastructure, environment and social issues connected to this part of the borough which has a smaller number of VCS organisations delivering services to the local residents. Some of these objectives fall in line with the 'Open to All' project such as;</p> <p>Sufficient indoor and outdoor spaces for people to enjoy, which are open to the public to use, including space where children can play and everyone can relax.</p> <p>Christ Church has worked hard on raising the profile of their campaign. The PDM had very little experience of crowdfunding but was driven by the need of the local community and such has developed this campaign with a lot of local community support.</p> <p>In addition they have organised 3 fundraising events linked to their campaign, they have unlocked new support & pledges from posting updates on their Facebook page.</p>	£6,309.50
			TOTAL	£10,370.25

CONTINGENCY FUND

Emergency Awards

EMERGENCY FUNDING BUDGET FINANCIAL SUMMARY				
Original Budget £250,000				
No	Grant Phase	Previous awards:	Amount Awarded (£)	Amount Not accepted (£)
1	1	Tower Hamlets Law Centre	20,000	
2	1	Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets	19,936	
3	1	Senrab FC	5,330	
4	2	Jagonari	20,000	
5	2	Triratna Arts	15,000	
6	2	Weavers Adventure Playground	8,800	
7	2	Account3	19,400	
8	3	Bethnal Green Sharks Swimming Club	4,325	
9	3	Black Women's Health and Family Support		2,733
10	3	East London Asian Family Counselling	12,250	
11	3	Grand Union Music (Loan)		1,600
12	3	Women's Health and Family Service	9,782	
13	4	Rainbow Pre-School (Loan) - organisation deemed no longer eligible		12,600
14	5	Island Advice	12,000	
15	5	Brick Lane Women's and Girls Project	4,200	
16	5	SSBA Community Trust - Heba Women's Project	3,000	
17	6	Praxis Community Projects		3,120
18	7	Women's Environmental Network (Loan)		12,358
19	8	The Rooted Forum	6,130.01	

CONTINGENCY FUND

EMERGENCY FUNDING BUDGET FINANCIAL SUMMARY				
Original Budget £250,000				
No	Grant Phase	Previous awards:	Amount Awarded (£)	Amount Not accepted (£)
20	12	Betar Bangla	10,000.00	
21	13	Home Start Tower Hamlets	13,658.60	
22	19	Beside Community Mental Health Project	2,060.00	
23	22	Black Women's Health & Family Support	6,241.89	
		Awarded to date	192,113.50	32,411

Transitional Awards

None to date

No.	Organisation Name	Summary of Request	Comments	Amount awarded
			TOTAL	

COMMUNITY BENEFIT RENT REDUCTION

CBRR Awards

No.	Organisation	Date of award	CBRR (80%) Grant per annum	Organisation contribution per annum	Total lease amount per annum	Premises usage
1	Wapping Bangladeshi Association	06/02/2019	£32,792	£8,198	£40,990	The organisation's activities timetable demonstrates that the asset is intensively being used.
2	Stifford Centre Limited	06/02/2019	£26,320	£6,580	£32,900	The organisation's activities timetable demonstrates a high usage of the centre.
3	Black Women's Health & Family Support	06/02/2019	£28,800	£7,200	£36,000	The organisation has a number of projects that it delivers from the centre.
4	Age UK East London	03/07/2019	£28,800	£7,200	£26,500	The organisation has a number of projects that it delivers from the centre.
5	Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club	03/07/2019	£21,200	£5,300	£26,500	The organisation's activities timetable demonstrates the high usage of the facilities including free dedicated sessions for the over 55's and training for under 18s.
6	Legal Advice Centre	03/07/2019	£18,400	£4,600	£23,000	The organisation demonstrates a high usage of the centre by the community.
7	SPLASH	03/07/2019	£9,040	£2,260	£11,300	The organisation's activities timetable demonstrates the high usage of the centre.
8	Bow Haven	11/12/2019	£15,560	£3,890	£19,450	The organisation's activities timetable demonstrates the high usage of the centre. BH delivers a wide range of projects and services 5 days a week; up to 8 hours per day.
9	Dorset Community Organisation	11/12/2019	£19,850	£4,962	£24,812	The organisation's activities timetable demonstrates that the asset is intensively being used. Dorset Community Association delivers a wide range of projects and services that meet local priorities.
10	Weavers Community Forum	11/12/2019	£6,272	£1,568	£7,840	The organisation demonstrates a high usage of the centre by the community. WCF delivers a wide range of projects and services 7 days a week; up to 8 hours per day.
			£207,034	£51,758	£249,292	