

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING
MEETING**

HELD AT 5.03 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2016

**MP702, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Sir Ken Knight	(Commissioner)
Chris Allison	(Commissioner)
Max Caller	(Commissioner)
Alan Wood	(Commissioner)

Co-opted Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Abdul Mukit MBE	(Chair of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee)

Officers Present:

Vicky Allen	(Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, Strategy, Corporate Strategy and Equality Service, Chief Executive's)
Afazul Hoque	Interim Service Manager, Strategy, Policy & Performance
Debbie Jones	(Corporate Director, Children's Services)
Joseph Lacey-Holland	Senior Strategy, Policy & Performance Officer
Michael Keating	Chair of THEP Steering Group
Cath Smith	CEO Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THEP)
Zena Cooke	(Corporate Director, Resources)
Steve Hill	(Head of Benefits Service)
Christine McInnes	(Service Head, Education and Partnerships, Children's Services)
Cath Smith	(CEO THEP)
Michael Keating	(Chair of THEP Steering Group)
Antonella Burgio	(Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

A declaration of interest was made by Commissioner Alan Wood relating to item 6.2 in that he was Chair of the LGA Board concerned with Education Partnerships and had worked on other education partnership boards.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The decisions of the meeting held on 27 September were noted for information. Commissioner Caller requested that an amendment be made to enable the decisions to record the formal role of Councillor Mukit, as Chair of Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee as part of the publication.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

No public submissions were received concerning agenda items discussed at the meeting.

5. EXERCISE OF COMMISSIONERS' DISCRETIONS

The Chair introduced the item which reported two urgent decisions discharged by Commissioners as individual decisions in the period 5th October - 17th October 2016. Co-opted Member, Mayor Biggs requested that future individual decisions should be copied to Co-opted Members for information.

Action by: Steve Hill, Head of Benefits Service.

RESOLVED

That the decisions reported be confirmed.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS)

Afazul Hoque Interim Service Manager, Strategy, Policy & Performance introduced the report which concerned proposals for the Council's participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme (SVPRS). The Council had been accepted on the basis that it had fulfilled the required criteria.

The Chair invited Councillor Mukit to comment on the report on behalf of the Grants Scrutiny Subcommittee (GSSC) and he indicated that the proposal was endorsed. He also asked the Council to ensure that the families accepted under the scheme did not become isolated from other families

resettled in London under this scheme. This proposal was supported by Commissioners and Co-opted Members. Commissioner Caller requested that officers work with participating neighbour authorities to ensure appropriate support is provided against isolation. Commissioner Caller noted also that Communications Team should oversee that appropriate messages were conveyed around the scheme and its participants.

RESOLVED

1. That the details of the SVPRS as set out by the UK Government, and issues arising be noted.
2. That the proposals to make grant payments to the families supported by the SVPRS for the first two years of the five year scheme. Payments related to housing costs are expected to be made directly to the landlord be approved.
3. That it be noted that following the initial two year period highlighted above, the Executive Mayor will consider the scheme and will be able to agree further grant payments, if required, in order to support families participating in the SVPRS and fulfil the Home Office's requirements.
4. That Communications Team should oversee that appropriate messages were conveyed around the scheme and its participants.

6.2 Agreement of the business case for the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership

Debbie Jones, Corporate Director, Children's Services introduced the report which summarised the development work establishing the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THEP) and the proposed business plan. Commissioners' comments relating to the THEP report made on 24 May 2016 were addressed at section 3.15 of the report.

The Chair invited Councillor Mukit to comment on the report on behalf of GSSC and he indicated that Members supported the approach taken to promote learning, collaboration and joint working between the parties of the partnership. GSSC also asked for assurances in a number of areas and clarification of monitoring arrangements.

The Chair invited co-opted members to comment on the report and Councillor Saunders welcomed the progress toward the development of the organisation so far achieved.

Commissioners welcomed the report. Commissioners Wood and Caller also commented on the reported noting that there should be clarity; on arrangements when Council funding ceases in 2019, on potential service risks, on identifying quantifiable baselines and targets.

RESOLVED

1. That the completion of requirements by THEP included in the Commissioners Decision Report of 24th May 2016 be noted.
2. That the THEP business plan and financial planning and agree the release of all funding for year 1 be noted.
3. That the Council's proposed scrutiny and governance arrangements for the THEP be noted.

6.3 Event Fund - Report on Event Fund Awards 2016-17 Quarter 1

Steve Murray Head of Arts and Events introduced the report which reported Event Fund Applications for events between April 1st 2016 and June 30th 2016. Alison Denning then reported details of awards made under Events funding in the period and improvements made to procedures to determine grants that were issued.

Mr Murray additionally asked Commissioners to approve a variation of the interval for processing applications from one month to three months to begin 3rd January 2017. Commissioners considered the requested and the Chair advised that they were minded to accept the proposal on the basis that variation would not be detrimental to the organisations applying. He requested that the implementation and effects of the change should be monitored and reported to Commissioners.

The Chair invited Councillor Mukit to comment on the report on behalf of GSSC and he indicated that Members had requested clarifications around allocation criteria, measures to support small organisations to apply, and opportunities to use the grants portal to signpost applicants to other sources of funding.

The Chair invited co-opted members to comment; Mayor Biggs and Councillor Saunders noted that some organisations might be unable to meet the new expectations. Officers advised that such organisations would be referred for support to CVS.

RESOLVED

1. That the quarterly report of Event Fund Grant applications made and awards approved by Service Head for Culture Leisure and Learning for applications for events taking place in April, May and June 2016 be noted.
2. That, subject to monitoring of implementation and effects, a variation of the interval for processing applications from one month to three months be approved, to begin 3rd January 2017.

6.4 Grants Forward Plan

RESOLVED

That the Grants Forward Plan 2016-17 as reported at 8 November 2016 be noted.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

7.1 MSG Performance Report - Project Variation Requests

Zena Cooke, Corporate Director for Resources introduced the report which sought Commissioners' approval of variation requests from three organisations that were performance rated either red or amber for their MSG projects.

The Chair invited Councillor Mukit to comment on the report on behalf of GSSC and he indicated Members requested that future reports requiring a decision about a grant should include a description of the purpose of the grant and the likely implications of the proposed action. Members also sought assurance that the reduction in match funding to the Shadwell Project would not impact project delivery.

Councillor Golds requested to comment. He declared an interest in that he was a Council nominee to the Board of the Green Candle Dance Company and asked Commissioners to consider the work delivered by this organisation to those with dementia. The request was noted and officers agreed to work with the organisation to help establish a target range of expected results.

The Chair invited co-opted members to comment and they indicated that they had no comments that they wished to make.

Commissioner Caller commented on the report that; clear messages should be conveyed to organisations around acceptable performance, that targets should demonstrate the benefit that the grant will deliver and that, where levels of achievement were less than expected, officers should investigate the level of grant that would otherwise also achieve the target delivered by the organisation in question. This approach was supported by all Commissioners.

RESOLVED

1. That the recommendations in sections 3.16, 3.28 and 3.34 of the report regarding the variation requests relating to three MSG project be approved.
2. That, where levels of achievement were less than expected, that officers should investigate the level of grant that would otherwise also achieve the target delivered by the organisation in question.

7.2 Postponement of Meeting

Commissioner Caller proposed that the scheduled meeting to be held on 20 December 2016 be postponed to 17 January 2017 at 5.00pm.

RESOLVED

That the scheduled meeting to be held on 20 December 2016 be postponed to 17 January 2017 at 5.00pm.

The meeting ended at 5.55 pm.

Chair: Sir Ken Knight
COMMISSIONER