

# COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING

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Wednesday, 17 June 2015 at 6.30 p.m.  
MP701, 7th Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent,  
London, E14 2BG

The meeting is open to the public to attend.

**Members:**

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

**Public Information:**

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

**Contact for further enquiries:**

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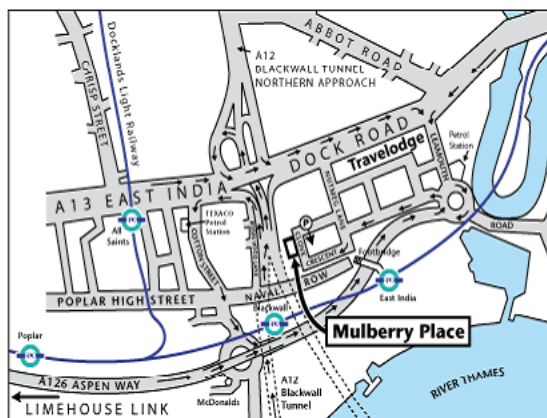
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## A Guide to Commissioner Decision Making

### **Commissioner Decision Making at Tower Hamlets**

As directed by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the above Commissioners have been directed to take decision making responsibility for specific areas of work. These include examples such as the disposal of properties, awarding of grants and certain officer employment functions. This decision making body has been set up to enable the Commissioners to take their decisions in public in a similar manner to existing processes.

### **Key Decisions**

Executive decisions are all decisions that are not specifically reserved for other bodies (such as Development or Licensing Committees). Most, but not all, of the decisions to be taken by the Commissioners are Executive decisions. Certain important Executive decisions are classified as **Key Decisions**.

The constitution describes Key Decisions as an executive decision which is likely

- a) to result in the local authority incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the local authority's budget for the service or function to which the decision relates; or
- b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the borough.

Upcoming Key Decisions are published on the website on the 'Forthcoming Decisions' page through [www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee](http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee). The Commissioners have chosen to broadly follow the Council's definition in classifying their determinations.

### **Published Decisions**

After the meeting, any decisions taken will be published on the Council's website.

- The decisions for this meeting will be published on: **Friday, 19 June 2015**

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS  
COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 17 JUNE 2015**

**6.30 p.m.**

<b>5 .1</b>	<b>Main Stream Grants 2012/15 Programme Extension of Amber Rated Projects</b>	<b>1 - 10</b>	<b>All Wards</b>
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# Agenda Item 5.1

Commissioners Decision Making Meeting 17 June 2015

Agenda item 5.1

APPENDIX 4

Supplemental update to Appendix 3

## Equality Assessment of MSG Roll-Over Funding Proposals 2015: Funding Stream

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**MSG Programme:** Mainstream Grants 2012/15 – Amber Projects Extension

### Background

The progress with the new MSG programme was on hold following interventions by the Secretary of State and the appointment of the Commissioners who then needed to review and direct the development of the programme. In the context of these circumstances it was necessary to review to extend projects beyond their expected contract end dates, to allow a bridging period between the current MSG programme and the next. Projects will always need to demonstrate capacity to deliver and meet the needs identified in any new round and to continue to receive funding. The decision to extend funding is based on the following performance criteria;

- Projects rated GREEN - to be extended for 5 months to the end of August.
- Projects rated AMBER - to be extended initially for 3 months with the possibility of a further 2 months depending on their performance during the January to March 2015 quarter. These projects would be the subject of a performance monitoring exercise.
- Those projects rated RED - will not be extended.

An equalities assessment was undertaken in March for each theme within the MSG programme focusing on the impact of individual projects not receiving extended funding on service users. The equality assessment undertaken in March did not identify any significant equalities impact of failing to fund projects identified as Red.

This assessment update's that analysis to assess the impact of not funding those projects rated Amber at Quarter 4 who have not qualified for a further 2 months funding, i.e. have not achieved a Green RAG rating at Quarter 1. In recommending non-continuation of funding for some projects, their performance

and delivery of outputs and the impact on current service users have been taken into account.

A detailed analysis has not been undertaken at this stage for a number of reasons;

- April 2015 was the expected contract end date for all of the MSG projects. The current arrangements represent an 'extension' of the original agreement and is not ending funding sooner than agreed.
- The extended funding period is relatively short – 3 months initially and a further 2 months for this round of extended funding. Any impact or provision gap is likely to be short term.
- Failure to receive extended funding is based on under performance and failure to meet agreed targets, including monitoring information necessary to undertake an appropriate equality impact assessment based on a full understanding of service users. Projects were consulted and advised of the process for agreeing extended funding.

This equalities impact assessment should be viewed within the wider context of the launch of the new MSG programme (September 2015) and the relatively short term extension period (2 months). Any adverse impacts identified are likely to be transitory potentially resulting in a gap in provision for a maximum of two months and on the assumptions that failure to receive an extension of funds will lead to project closure and that there are no suitable alternative services. The new MSG programme has been based on identified needs and reflecting changes since the development of the previous programme. It should be noted that current service users may find that projects previously funded via MSG are not funded via new MSG programme.

An evaluation exercise for the MSG 2012-15 programme is in the process of being commissioned and will include a more complete equalities analysis. It should also consider the data limitations of the current programme and how that can be improved moving forward.

### **Summary Findings**

A key finding of the equalities assessment undertaken in March was that the failure to receive extended funding was primarily due to the failure of projects to deliver the services for which they were awarded grants or a failure to provide the relevant monitoring information about the service users accessing the services.

However, two of the lunch club projects have received an amber rating due to delays submitting monitoring information although their stated performance in

terms of numbers of service users has been anecdotally reported as high. This is detailed in Appendix A.

In the original equalities assessment, the MSG 2013-15 programme was characterised by a high volume of small projects, receiving small grants. This meant that there was alternate provision within the range of MSG funded projects where grant funding was not extended to particular programmes.

However, a number of the projects that have been assessed as not being able to receive extended funding due to their performance status are lunch clubs and this means that there is likely to be a greater impact on some equality groups, who access this particular type of service as a result of this. Although a number of lunch clubs will continue to receive funding these are geared towards different communities. Further details are set out below.

More than 17 projects (out of 33) within the Older People's Lunch Club theme have not been recommended to receive extended funding, 12 in April 2015 and 5 now. Given the proportion of projects under this theme that have not received extended funding, further analysis as to why projects are rated as Amber is provided at Appendix A.

Anecdotally, we are aware that a number of organisations whose lunch club agreements were not extended beyond March have continued to run a service of some description though not necessarily a lunch club but focussed on opportunities to for older people to meet socially. However, we do not have the information to verify whether users of the affected lunch clubs are accessing these or other services.

2 projects have been rated as Amber due to failure to submit monitoring information in time. Submission was well outside of agreed timeframes and the inability to verify the monitoring information has an impact on being able to assess the equality impact. This is a contractual obligation and organisations were aware that failure to submit information in time would impact on RAG ratings and potentially funding. Both groups, East London Chinese Community Centre (ELCCC) and Kingsley Hall Community Centre are exceeding attendance targets. If failing to receive funding were to lead to project closure, this could impact adversely on a number of service users.

There are no clear local alternatives for some projects particularly for those accessing services provided by Neighbours in Poplar or Wadajir Somali Community Centre.

ELCCC users could access lunch clubs operated by the Chinese Association of Tower Hamlets and the Community of Refugees from Vietnam projects. In fact,

it is known that some users do access all three, however if ELCCC were to close there would be no provision on a Tuesday or Wednesday. Kingsley Hall users could potentially access Age UK's Appian Court, although this is approximately one mile away.

Other alternate provision includes Council commissioned services provided by LinkAge Plus, which are services that are provided at a borough-wide level for all users aged 50+.

Provision for older people makes up a significant proportion of the Prevention Health and Wellbeing theme in the new MSG. Grant will be awarded based on project assessment and identified need within the borough.

Given this EA is unable to name specific alternate provision in all cases, it is essential that this is recognised as a possible negative impact on some current service users and that council officers work with projects to sign post existing users to alternate provision.

Looking across themes, 2 projects not recommended to receive extended funding target ex-offenders (CFS – 03 Special Times and CEE-17 A New Start) and two projects target rough sleepers (YCS – 46 Tower Hamlets Street Pastors and CEE – 17 A New Start). Within the MSG 2012-15 programmes there is limited 'targeted' provision remaining for these groups. However, there does remain alternate available provision (e.g. work advice) within the programme, and all projects were under performing. It is recommended that users are signposted to alternate provision should failure to receive extended funding lead to project closure.

#### Recommendations

- Further work is undertaken to identify whether failure to receive extended funding has led or will lead to project closure.
- Further work is undertaken to ensure service users are signposted to alternate provision where possible.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Impact</b> ✓ - <b>Positive</b> × - <b>Adverse</b> <b>0 = Neutral</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Older People's Lunch Club	× - Adverse	The impact on this theme is detailed above. Due to the extent of projects within this theme not receiving further funding, and the lack of detailed service user



Theme	Impact ✓ - Positive ✗ - Adverse 0 = Neutral	Summary
		<p>data available, a 'potentially' adverse impact has been identified.</p> <p>Mitigation is recommended in terms of further work to identify whether failure to receive extended funding has led to project closure and signposting service users to alternate provision</p>
Children & Families Services	0 = Neutral	<p>It is recommended that 2 projects do not receive extended funding. This is on top of two projects that did not receive funding in April.</p> <p>CFS-03 was the only project targeting women offenders and families; however there are alternate services that can be accessed. It is recommended that any service users are sign posted to alternate provision and supported to access it where appropriate.</p> <p>CFS-32 Social VIPs and Families targets young people with visual impairment. Two projects which did not receive further funding in April, CFS 30 – Childs Play and CFS -31 Recently diagnosed VIPs also targeted young people with visual impairment (same delivery organisation). Again none of these projects could demonstrate a positive impact for target users, therefor it is difficult to assess an adverse impact of these projects not receiving extended funding. There is also existing borough wide provision for young people with visual impairment. Therefore, there is no adverse equalities impact identified.</p>
Early Years' Services	0 = Neutral	All projects recommended to receive further funding in April will continue to receive extended funding within this theme. Therefore no adverse impact has been identified.
Study Support Services	0 = Neutral	All projects recommended to receive further funding in April will continue to receive extended funding within this theme. Therefore no adverse impact has been identified.

Theme	Impact ✓ - Positive ✗ - Adverse 0 = Neutral	Summary
Youth & Connexions Service	0 = Neutral	<p>It is recommended that a further 2 projects do not receive extended funding within this theme. This is in addition to 2 that did not receive further funding in April.</p> <p>This theme in particular was characterised by lots of small projects, receiving small amounts of money – this has limited the equalities impact of project failure.</p> <p>As such, closure of some and the decision to not award extended funding will have little impact on target users across the 9 protected characteristics because these programmes are ‘add-ons’ to current mainstream youth service provision covering all groups.</p> <p>Projects that have closed or not been recommended for receipt of roll over funding is on the basis that they have not delivered agreed targets or have not been able to evidence that they have delivered.</p> <p>Therefore, it is not possible to demonstrate impact on service users should these projects not continue. As described above there is significant crossover of provision, both via the MSG programme and mainstream funding that in most cases (projects targeting BME youth for e.g.) there are alternative options available for service users. Where applicable, service users will be signposted toward alternate provision.</p>
Community Language Services	0 = Neutral	<p>A further project within this theme, CLS-28 Wapping Creative Bangla project is not recommended to receive further funding. This is in addition to 3 which did not receive further funding in April; CLS 29 Jeremiah Children Welfare Project Limited Mother Tongue Bengali, CLS 30 Baglay Kota Boli, and CLS 36 Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association Mother Tongue Class. All four projects provide Bengali Mother Tongue classes. However, there has been limited evidence of delivery from these projects. There is also significant Bengali Mother Tongue projects remaining within the theme across the</p>

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Impact</b> ✓ - Positive ✗ - Adverse 0 = Neutral	<b>Summary</b>
		borough – 20 will remain across the borough.
Arts, Sports & Environmental Services	0 = Neutral	A total of five projects within this theme have not received further funding within this theme; 4 in April and 1 now. 44 projects remain funded. The initial programme provided a wide range of cross borough sporting, arts and cultural provision with both universal offering and targeted toward Bengali service users. There is also mainstream provision. Therefore it is not thought that there would be any adverse impact of not funding these projects to service users. These are not projects that are delivering to one defined group of service users.
Lifelong Learning Services	0 = Neutral	All projects recommended to receive further funding in April will continue to receive extended funding within this theme. Therefore no adverse impact has been identified.
Community & Economic Engagement	0 = Neutral	Of the original 48 projects originally funded, 44 remain funded. 4 projects gave notice to terminate their Grant Agreement and one is not recommended to receive additional funding due to under performance at Q4. The equalities assessment indicates no change in service provision to either of the groups with protected characteristics. There is widely available alternative provision?
Social Welfare Advice Services	0 = Neutral	All projects recommended to receive further funding in April will continue to receive extended funding within this theme. Therefore no adverse impact has been identified.
Third Sector Infrastructure	0 = Neutral	All projects recommended to receive further funding in April will continue to receive extended funding within this theme. Therefore no adverse impact has been identified.



## Appendix A

### Lunch Clubs – Amber

Organisation	Project	3 Month Extension Amount £	Q4 RAG Status	Reasons for Amber status
Kingsley Hall Community Centre	Kingsley Hall Luncheon Club	889	<b>AMBER</b>	Failure to receive monitoring data within agreed timeframe (more than 2 weeks late) Over performing against target
Wadijir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Somali Elderly Luncheon Club	4,444	<b>AMBER</b>	Reporting 100% attendance record against target, but unable to verify figures.
East London Chinese Community Centre	Older People Luncheon Service for Tower Hamlets residents	1,333	<b>AMBER</b>	Failure to receive monitoring data within agreed timeframe (more than 2 weeks late) Over performing against target
Wadijir Somali Community Centre	Poplar Somali Elderly Luncheon Club	1,111	<b>AMBER</b>	Reporting 100% attendance record against target, but unable to verify figures.
Neighbours In Poplar *	Burcham Street Lunch Club	2,778	<b>RED</b>	Underperformance. All activities completed but only 24.1% against agreed attendance target

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