

Meeting of the

COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING

Tuesday, 12 April 2016 at 5.00 p.m.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA

	PAGE NUMBER	WARD(S) AFFECTED
4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS Consideration of any written comments received from members of the public in relation to any of the reports on the agenda.	1 - 2	All Wards
[Any submissions should be sent to the clerk listed on the agenda front page by 5pm the day before the meeting]		
6.8 OSC Feedback on Cross Party Forum for Grants Notes of OSC meeting with feedback are attached.	3 - 4	All Wards

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact:

Antonella Burgio, Democratic Services

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8th April 2016

Sir Ken Knight
Chief Commissioner
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
London E14 2BG

Dear Sir Ken,

Public submission from THCVS for the Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on Tuesday 12th April 2016

We write in relation to two items on the agenda for the Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on the 12th April 2016; the report "Support for the VCS and the Innovation Fund" and the item "Exercise of Commissioners' Discretion", relating to Emergency Funding Decisions.

In relation to the "Support for the VCS and Innovation Fund" proposals, THCVS are supportive of the recommendations contained in the paper. We are pleased there is a plan that will allow Community Fund resources to be released and to provide local voluntary organisations with much needed capacity building support. We have had initial discussions with the council about this proposal and we look forward to working with the council, and with local partner organisations, to develop the scope of the support that will be provided. We also welcome the proposed new Innovation Fund, and are pleased that council officers are proposing to coproduce the criteria, process and timetable with the voluntary and community sector.

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We thank you for providing detail of decisions made on the 9th February and 22nd March relating to unsuccessful Emergency Funding applications. Whilst we recognise the need to make these decisions quickly (and therefore outside of the normal public decision making meetings) we would still welcome information about the rationale for the decisions made, that would be available were the decisions made in public. We believe that a full understanding of how the grant award decisions were made would particularly benefit applicants to the Emergency Fund - the high proportion of unsuccessful applications suggests to us that organisations are unclear of the criteria for awarding of Emergency Funding.

Thank you for your time in considering our letter,

Yours sincerely,



Kirsty Cornell
CEO
THCVS

Cc Zena Cooke
Steve Hill
Everett Haughton

Establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Grants Sub-Committee

The Committee noted that following a Best Value Inspection undertaken by Price Waterhouse Coopers during 2014, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government issued the Council with Directions on 17th December 2014. The Directions focused on particular areas which had been the subject of the Best Value inspection and included grants.

As part of the Directions, it was noted that a Grants Action Plan had been developed and agreed. As part of that Plan, a recommendation was to review arrangements post Commissioners for future executive decision-making and the action arising was to establish a cross party working group to develop proposals for future arrangements. A proposal was put to the Commissioners at their Decision Making Meeting on 1st March 2016 that a Sub-Committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should act as the “**cross-party forum**” to be established to review Officer recommendations prior to their consideration at a Commissioners’ Decision Making Meeting and this proposal was agreed. The Commissioners agreed to receive a further report setting out the details of the Committee arrangements.

A summary of the discussions on this report is set out below:

- Agreed that any decision relating to the composition of the Sub-Committee should be made independently of any political bias;
- The exact number needed to be settled and the Sub-Committee should also include in its membership co-opted non-voting members;
- Agreed that training would be required to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Elected and Co-opted Members; and
- Agreed Nominees should be sought from the Leaders of the 3 political groups for members of this Sub-Committee.

As a result of the discussions on this report including the appenices relating to Terms of Reference and the Forward Plan the Committee:

1. **Agreed** to add to the Overview and Scrutiny work programme, the review of Officer recommendations regarding grants and award of grants prior to their consideration at a Commissioners’ Decision Making Meeting;
2. **Agreed** to the establishment of an Overview and Scrutiny Grants Sub-Committee which will act as a scrutiny panel to undertake the reviews in recommendation 1 above;
3. **Considered** and **agreed** the terms of reference; forward plan; chairing arrangements; and training programme for such Sub-Committee as set out in Appendix A and B of the report;
4. **Considered** and **concluded** that the composition of the Sub-Committee should be settled on five elected members, namely the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny (or his/ her nominated Deputy) and two other Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee from the administration and one each from the opposition parties with the addition of co-opted non-voting members, the exact number to be agreed; and
5. **Agreed** that a report would be presented to Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 3 months to review the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Grants Sub-Committee and whether changes need to be made to its Terms of Reference or composition.

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