

# Cabinet



Wednesday, 29 March 2023 at 5.30 p.m.

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel

## Supplementary Agenda 1 - Voluntary and Community Sector – Grants Policy & Outcomes Framework

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<p><b>Report Summary:</b>            The report sets out the Council’s new Grants Policy and outcome framework for the voluntary and community sector. This will replace corporate grants policy and programmes from Oct 2023.</p> <p><b>Wards:</b> All Wards</p> <p><b>Lead Member:</b> Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living</p> <p><b>Corporate Priority:</b> A council that works for you and listens to you</p>		



<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Cabinet</p> <p>29<sup>th</sup> March 2023</p>	 <p style="font-weight: bold; color: blue;">TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Sharon Godman, Director Strategy, Improvement &amp; Transformation</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Policy &amp; Outcomes Framework (October 2023 to March 2027)</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Cllr Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources &amp; the Cost of Living</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Afazul Hoque, Head of Corporate Strategy & Communities
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	Over £1m expenditure and impacts all wards
<b>Strategic Plan Priorities</b>	Priority 1: Tackling the cost of living crisis Priority 3: Accelerate education Priority 4: Boosting culture, business, jobs and leisure Priority 5: Invest in public services Priority 6: Empowering communities and fighting crime Priority 7: Working towards a clean and green future Priority 8: A council that listens and works for everyone

**Reasons for Urgency**

This report is being submitted after the statutory deadline due to additional time to consider the feedback from the engagement. The report is required to be presented to this Cabinet as the Council’s current corporate grants programme ends in September 2023. In order that a replacement a grant is in place by October 2023 and due process can be followed Cabinet will need to agree the policy and outcomes framework as set out in this report at their meeting in March.

**Executive Summary**

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) in Tower Hamlets plays a crucial role in supporting residents with many important services. They played a key role in the response during the recent pandemic, the subsequent recovery as well as throughout the current cost of living crisis.

Our new [Strategic Plan 2022-26](#) sets out eight priorities designed to improve outcomes for residents. This includes a commitment to partnership working with the voluntary and community sector. Our current corporate grant arrangements end in September 2023, and in line with our new strategic priorities, this paper sets out our new VCS grants policy and outcome framework. This is supported by a new grants programme which will provide long-term funding to enable the achievement of our shared vision to ‘support and invest in a thriving and diverse VCS to enable it to improve outcomes for Tower Hamlets residents’.

### **Recommendations:**

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note the consultation and engagement undertaken to develop the policy and outcomes framework as set out in para 3.3 and Appendix 2.
2. Agree the Grants Policy and Outcome Framework as set in paras 3.4-3.5 and Appendix 3.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive to finalise the detailed prospectus of each grants programme.
4. Note the proposed timetable for new grants arrangements as outlined in para 3.6 and agree the three and a half-year programme for the Mayor’s Community Grants, from October 2023 to March 2027.
5. Agree the grant assessment arrangements as set out in para 3.7
6. Agree the budget for the grants programme as set out in para 3.8.
7. Agree that the proposed governance process for the development and implementation of the grants programme for the VCS as set out in paragraph 3.9 and note a further update will be provided to Cabinet April 2023.
8. Authorise the Chief Executive to agree the final grant awards for the Mayor’s Community Grants Programme.
9. Authorise the Chief Executive to agree an extension of 4 weeks of existing grants programme, if necessary, as set out in para 3.6 (a).
10. Note the result of the equalities impact screening as set out in para 4.1.

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

- 1.1 The Council’s Strategic Plan 2022-26 sets out our priorities, ambitions, and actions as well as our commitment to partnership work in the borough. One of the ways in which we demonstrate our commitment is through our

investment in VCS commissioning and grants. The Council's current grant arrangements end in September 2023, and in line with our new strategic priorities, this paper sets out our new VCS grants policy and outcome framework.

- 1.2 Tower Hamlets VCS is a crucial partner that provides important community services and activities that improve outcomes for residents. Our VCS played a key role in supporting the borough's recovery from the pandemic and continues to address the current cost of living crisis.
- 1.3 The new funding policy and outcomes framework will ensure we work with the VCS to:
  - Secure VCS services that they are best placed to deliver
  - Support the delivery of provision to address priority needs in the community
  - Preserve good practice within existing Council-funded VCS service provision
  - Ensure a good mix of VCS provision in terms of service reach and ability to deliver innovative service responses
  - Support the development of a sustainable VCS with a broad range of organisations who are able to respond to the diverse needs in the community.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The Council can decide not to fund the VCS through a grants programme. This option is not recommended as it would:
  - Remove vital VCS services that are improving the lives of our residents
  - Go against our commitment to partnership working with the VCS
- 2.2 Continue with existing grants programmes. This is not recommended as it would not deliver our revised priorities as set out in the Strategic Plan.

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

### **3.1 Background**

- (a) Tower Hamlets has one of the largest and most diverse voluntary and community sectors (VCS) in London that makes a much-valued contribution to the social and economic life of the borough. The VCS plays a key role in the life of Tower Hamlets residents. It is often the first point of contact for many seeking support and access to public services. It is at the forefront of responding to several key social and economic issues which present a significant challenge to residents, particularly to socially excluded communities and population groups, who heavily rely on VCS services. These

issues include the cost-of-living crisis, the impact of the pandemic and inequality amongst Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic residents, high level of poverty, increasing demand and digital exclusion with increasing levels of services being delivered digitally.

- (b) National charity leaders have called on central government to provide meaningful financial support to those in greatest need and targeted financial support to VCS organisations that would support them.<sup>1</sup> There is a need to involve VCS organisations in any plans to address increased demands especially as the sector provides services such as food banks and warm hubs.<sup>2</sup>
- (c) Tower Hamlets has higher levels of deprivation, morbidity and mortality rates, significantly impacting many socially excluded groups. The 2021 Covid impact assessment and residents survey found existing inequalities had been exacerbated by the pandemic. These included physical and mental health, social care, education and learning, homelessness, loneliness, and deprivation.<sup>3</sup> Recovery from the pandemic at a time of economic crisis has seen an increase in demand for a range of health, education and social services including those provided by VCS.<sup>4</sup>
- (d) Many challenges are particularly acute in Tower Hamlets due to the young age profile of its residents. The 2021 Census found that almost half of residents were aged 20-39 and nearly a quarter of residents aged between 0–19-year-olds. Tower Hamlets has the fastest growing population of any local authority area across England and Wales. Between 2011 and 2021 the population increased by 22.1% from 254,096<sup>5</sup> to 310,300.<sup>6</sup> Other sources of data highlight that Tower Hamlets has the highest level of child poverty with 56% of children living in poverty, which is 25% above the national rate. We know that if young people’s opportunity to develop their potential is restricted at an early stage, or when seeking to access educational, employment and training opportunities, the cycle of poverty and social exclusion is re-enforced. Further details of needs are set out in **Appendix 1 Tower Hamlets Priority Needs**.
- (e) The [Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#) recognises our challenges, and the priorities. It provides scope for the development and delivery of VCS services and activities that help address these challenges. The new grants policy and outcomes framework will incorporate priorities set out in the Plan, including:
  - Priority 1: Tackling the cost-of-living crisis
    - Commitment to develop a local safety net to address poverty in the borough that will include VCS organisations and food banks

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/joint-statement-cost-of-living-crisis/#/>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> London Borough of Tower Hamlets: *Understanding the impact of Covid-19 in Tower Hamlets*, September 2021.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2011

<sup>6</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

- Early support for residents to increase incomes, reduce costs and debts
- Waging war on child poverty, as well as loneliness, social isolation and poverty among the borough's older residents
- Priority 3: Accelerate education
  - Prioritising the preservation of safety for children and young people, including developing early help offer
  - Enabling young people to study and work with community groups through homework clubs
  - Enhancing nursery and day care provision for young children and their families, including VCS-provided services
- Priority 4: Boosting culture, business, jobs and leisure
  - Opening opportunities for all residents, including young people and women, to participate in a wide range of local sporting and cultural opportunities
  - Support access to jobs, training and apprenticeship including in growth sectors
- Priority 5: Invest in public services
  - Maintaining preparedness and respond effectively to any further resurgence of Covid to keep residents safe, addressing its disproportionate impact on residents from Black, Asian & Multi Ethnic communities
  - Providing early support for children and adults at risk of poor mental health and loneliness, including through community action on loneliness
- Priority 6: Empowering communities and fighting crime
  - Bringing people from different backgrounds together to promote understanding
  - Tackling violence against women and girls and support victims
  - Supporting and empowering women, particularly Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic women, with dedicated community programmes and facilities
- Priority 7: Working towards a clean and green future
  - Make the borough greener for everyone, with well-maintained parks and improvements to air quality standards
- Priority 8: A council that listens and works for everyone
  - Build strong local, regional and national partnerships that deliver for residents of Tower Hamlets.

### 3.2 Voluntary and community sector in Tower Hamlets

- (a) Tower Hamlets VCS comprises a wide range of organisations, approximately 1,300 in total, delivering a range of services and activities. These organisations include:
- Registered charities
  - Faith groups
  - Unregistered and informal community groups, including mutual aid groups
  - Social enterprises
  - Tenants and residents' associations
  - Co-operatives
  - Community interest companies with charitable elements.
- (b) The Council recognises the important contribution the VCS makes to the social fabric of the borough, especially for residents, and to public services. It helps develop relationships between people and communities and provides opportunities for people to cultivate their imagination and interests, allowing them to flourish.
- (c) The important role of the VCS in the borough and the strength of the sector was particularly highlighted in its contribution to the response and recovery to the Covid-19 pandemic in the borough. It played a crucial role in delivering services to housebound and socially excluded residents, leading on several prominent initiatives, such as the supply and delivery of food and medicine to high risk or self-isolating residents.
- (d) The value of the VCS is evident with our investment in the sector. Between April 2022-March 2023 the Council has funded VCS organisations to deliver a range of activities with grants making up approximately £10.4m and commissioning approximately £41.7million.<sup>7</sup>
- (e) The VCS sector is facing significant challenges with rising costs, increased demands, challenges around recruitment and retention of staff, access to funding and changes in delivery model. These challenges pose risks to organisational sustainability and ability to deliver important services to local residents.
- (f) The corporate funding programmes with the VCS have been a key area of investment in the sector through grant funding. This includes several grants programmes:
- Local Community Fund – Oct 2019 – Sept 2023 with an annual budget of £2.6m
  - Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund- October 2019-September 2022 with an annual budget of £260,000

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<sup>7</sup> Approximate figures based on mapping undertaken as of Sept 2022



- Small Grants Programme- Oct 2019 – Mar 2023 with an annual budget of £450,000
- Innovation Fund- Oct 2019 – Sept 2023 with an annual budget of £60,000
- Emergency Grant- Oct 2019 – Sept 2023 with an annual budget of £100,000

(g) Progress against these grant programmes is regularly reported to the Council's Grants Determination Sub Committee. Further details on progress and deliverables can be found on the Committee agenda papers on the Council website.

### 3.3 Development of grants policy and outcomes framework for the voluntary and community sector

(a) At its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 the Grants Determination Sub Committee agreed to extend the end date for several VCS funding programmes, including the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme to September 2023. This has ensured that VCS services continue to deliver whilst we developed a new grant policy and outcomes framework.

(b) Work to develop the grants policy & outcomes framework has included:

- A desk top review of existing grant programmes and examination of best practice from other councils.
- A mapping exercise of all the grants and commissioning contracts that fund the VCS across the Council. This found we spend approximately £52.1m between April 2022-March 2023 in the VCS.
- Engagement with the Mayor, Cabinet Member for Resources and Cost of Living and the Mayor's Office.
- Consultation and engagement with local stakeholders which included:
  - Six workshops with voluntary & community sector organisations attended by 155 people
  - 5 resident pop-up events which engaged 97 residents
  - 2 all members seminars attended by 12 Members
  - An-online survey through Let's Talk Tower Hamlets with 57 responses
  - 10 workshops with council teams

(c) The total number of local residents and representatives from VCS organisations engaged was 309 and involved 144 VCS organisations. A summary report detailing key findings are attached in **Appendix 2**. Some key highlights are:

- Tackling the cost-of-living crisis was the top priority across all the engagement methods.
- Culture, business, job and skills was the second most important theme across all engagement.

- On small grants, activities for children and young people and reducing social isolation was the top priority across all engagement.
  - Outcomes include empowering individuals to manage their finance, enabling people to have necessary education and skills to access jobs, improving physical and mental wellbeing and strengthening community cohesion.
  - A need to ensure grant funding provides good geographical and equalities coverage to ensure all sections of the community benefit.
  - A balance in types and sizes of organisations providing services.
- (d) The feedback from the engagement will be used to design the specification for the grants programme. There was a general view that the priorities address a range of areas which will improve outcome for residents.

### **3.4 Grants Policy & Outcomes Framework**

- (a) Grants are responsive and are dependent on the community bringing forward ideas and proposals for activities to achieve positive outcomes, rather than responding to a more prescriptive tendering process. It is the responsive nature of grants which sets it apart as the most appropriate mechanism for funding some types of activity. The Council is committed to supporting a diverse range of VCS organisations to design and deliver innovative projects which improve outcomes for local people.
- (b) This refreshed grants policy and outcomes framework replaces our previous policy. The new grants programme will target delivering our strategic priorities and ambitions. We want to ensure Tower Hamlets continues to tackle inequality by building a strong, inclusive, and fair borough where our strength lies in different cultures and communities working side by side. We recognise that to deliver this, we need to ensure there is sustainable long-term funding for the VCS. The new grants programme and outcomes framework set out in Appendix 3 is designed to achieve this.
- (c) The vision for the new funding policy and outcomes framework is to ‘support and invest in a thriving and diverse VCS to enable it to improve outcomes for Tower Hamlets residents.’ The main principles that will underpin our investment in a new programme include:
- Funding that supports a wider range of services and groups to ensure all sections of the community benefit from a grants programme and address the challenges facing Tower Hamlets residents.
  - Funding that supports services and activities that are inclusive, promote cohesion and designed and delivered with residents.
  - Long term funding to organisations in return for efficient and effective services.
  - Achieving value for money.
  - Alignment to the Council’s Strategic Plan.
  - Improved partnership working between local VCS organisations.

### 3.5 New VCS Grants Programme for voluntary and community sector

- (a) The Grants Policy and Outcomes Framework is supported by several new grants programmes. Further details of these and related outcomes are set out in Appendix 3 and below.
- (b) The new main corporate grants programme will be called the Mayor's Community Grant programme. This will be a three- and half-year programme (Oct 23 - Mar27) and includes five themes consisting of:

Schemes	Priorities	Indicative Annual Budget
<b>Theme: Tackling the Cost-of-living crisis</b>		
<b>1A Advice and Information</b>	Information, advice and representation concerning individuals' legal rights,	£900,000
	Immigration/asylum advice and casework	
	Debt advice and support with budgeting and financial stability, particularly for vulnerable, marginalised and hard to reach groups	
	Support with welfare benefits	
	Housing/homelessness advice and casework	
	Employment advice	
	Income maximation	
	Support for residents in crisis needing immediate support	
<b>Theme: Accelerate Education</b>		
<b>2A – Education attainment and development of children and young people</b>	Community-based study support	£700,000
	Community language development	
	Community-based provision for children with Special Educational Needs	
	Extracurricular activities and after school provision	
<b>2B – Lifelong Learning</b>	Skills for life and lifelong learning	
	English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)	
	Digital Inclusion	
<b>Theme: Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills</b>		
<b>3A - Employment and skills opportunities for socially excluded residents</b>	Supporting people not in education, employment or training (NEET)	£650,000
	Targeted youth outreach	
	Access to Youth Provision	
	Enterprise and innovation, particularly the greening of the borough	
	Job brokerage	
<b>3B Sports and local culture and heritage</b>	Local culture and heritage	
	Sports activity	

<b>Invest in public services</b>		
<b>4A – Physical and mental wellbeing of older people</b>	Supporting older and vulnerable people, including luncheon clubs, meals delivered to homes and pensioner projects	£800,000
	Developing community activities aimed at tackling loneliness and active lifestyle	
<b>4B - Physical and mental health of residents</b>	Promoting health and wellbeing through tackling inequality	
<b>Empower communities and fight crime</b>		
<b>5A – Inequalities experienced by people and communities reflecting different equality groups and social economic backgrounds</b>	Addressing inequality for Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities and women	£450,000
	Creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together	
<b>5B – Community safety</b>	Tackling drug and alcohol issues	
	Promoting safer communities	
	Supporting ex-offenders	
	Gang intervention and prevention	
	Victim support	
	Violence against women and girls	
		<b>Total £3,500,000</b>

(c) In addition, a new Small Grants Programme consisting of the following:

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Indicative Annual Budget</b>	<b>Draft Criteria</b>
<b>Mayor &amp; Young Mayors - Youth Empowerment Fund</b> – Support young people to design, bid and deliver projects for their peers	£250,000	£3,500 max grant per organisation per year
<b>Mayor’s Positive Activities for Young People</b> – Support activities during school holidays	£250,000	£6,000-£7,500 max per organisation, once a year
<b>Community events</b> – Support events that brings communities together, celebrate our diversity, national and regional celebrations	£100,000	£2,500 max per organisation once a year
<b>Mayor’s Capacity Building Programme</b> – Support organisational development which	£100,000	£2,500 max per organisation once a year

strengthens local organisations' ability to deliver services		
<b>Community chest Very small grants to support community events and activities</b>	£100,000	£500 max per organisation three times a year
<b>Total £800,000</b>		

- (d) A refreshed Emergency Grant providing funding for VCS organisations subject to need and eligibility.

Grant	Indicative Budget
<b>Emergency Grant</b> – Support VCS organisations that have been or are funded by Council which are facing an emergency that may likely result in closure of organisation.	£100,000

- (e) The current Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant ends in September 2023. The Small Grants programme includes a capacity building theme which will enable local organisations to access the support they need that is much more tailored to individual organisations. This will be complemented by support to VCS organisations from the Council's Strategy, Improvement & Transformation Division. The current funding from Infrastructure and Capacity Building grant is being reinvested into the new grants programme with additional funding of nearly £1m. This will ensure there is no reduction in funding to the sector.
- (f) The current providers of Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant are key local partners that contribute to the development and sustainability of local VCS organisations. Proposed changes to this funding stream are likely to have a impact including possible closure of some organisations. Other risks include impact on local VCS organisations access to support and other project funding. The Council will work with existing providers to understand potential impact and support mitigation that manages a transition.

### 3.6 Timetable for new VCS grants arrangements

Timeframe	Milestone
<b>Mayor's Community Grants Programme</b>	
Mid Apr -May 23	open for bidding
Jun-Jul 23	Assessment and moderation
Aug 23	Chief Executive's decision on grant award
Sept 23	Mobilisation of new programme
Oct 23	Start of new programme
<b>Small Grants Programme</b>	
Apr -May 23	Development of specification and criteria
Jun-Jul 23	Agreement of new programme
Nov23	Launch of new Small Grants Programme
<b>Emergency Grant</b>	

Apr – Jun 23	Review and development of criteria and process
Oct 23	Launch of refreshed Emergency Grant

- (a) The above timetable is ambitious and allows limited scope for setbacks. We will need to consider the possibility of such slippage and actions to address it. This will be particularly relevant to the assessment stage of the Mayor's Community Grants Programme as it will depend on the number of applications and assessors to support this work. This would require further extensions of current grants arrangements beyond its end date of September 2023, for a further four – eight weeks, to ensure that VCS services supported by existing arrangements remain fully in operation whilst the new grants arrangements are finalised. It is proposed that Cabinet delegate this decision to the Chief Executive.

### **3.7 Assessment of applications for Mayor's Community Grants Programme**

- (a) It is proposed assessment and moderation for all grants programmes are managed by the Council. Given the current capacity of the service and significant number of grants applications that are expected for the Mayor's Community Grants Programme, work is being undertaken to create a team of assessors. This will involve officers who have experience of grants or contract assessment, who will be provided with training to assess this programme.
- (b) The processes for grant applications will be two-fold consisting of an organisational assessment and project assessment. Applications will need to pass the organisational assessment to move to the project assessment stage. This is similar to the Council's procurement process and will ensure organisations meet expected thresholds to deliver services.
- (c) The organisational assessment will consist of the following areas:
- Governance
  - Business planning
  - Quality assurance
  - Managing people
  - Managing money
  - Equality and Diversity
  - Safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse
  - Insurance
- (d) The project assessment will consist of the following criteria:
- Effective delivery service plan
  - Track record of successful service delivery
  - Demonstrates local connections
  - Provision for service co-design with borough residents
  - Quality assurance standard framework or processes
  - Equalities, diversity & community cohesion
  - Offers good value for money
  - Ability to demonstrate change using SMART outcomes and indicators

- (e) The organisational assessment will be carried out by one officer where an organisation fails this will be moderated by a senior manager. The project assessment will be carried out by two officers with moderation of applications where there is a 10% variation between both the assessors. The theme based relevant service will then work together to design a programme that meets the objectives of each theme and ensure geographical and equalities needs are met.
- (f) The Small Grants Programme will be managed by the Council with all assessments undertaken internally and recommendations agreed by the Grants Determination Sub Committee. The youth focused areas of small grants will be managed by the Children and Culture Directorate with the remainder managed by the Strategy, Improvement & Transformation Division.

### 3.8 Budget for Grants Programme

- (a) The current annual corporate VCS funding budget is £3.5 million per annum. Following agreement of a growth bid the annual spend on the voluntary and community will be £4.4 million per annum broken down as follows:

Grants Programme	Indicative Annual Budget
Mayor's Community Grants Programme	£3,500,000
Small Grants Programme	£800,000
Emergency Grant	£100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,400,000</b>

- (b) The current £3.5 million funding includes a £982,000 contribution from Public Health, which is used to fund health-related work that is part of the LCF programme. The remaining £2,518,000 of the budget is financed from the general fund. The new programme will ensure the Public Health contribution would continue to fund the Public Health Outcomes as set out in the framework.
- (c) In addition to the growth bid for the VCS an additional growth bid of £255k has been approved by Full Council. This will support increasing capacity in the Strategy, Improvement and Transformation division to manage the new grants programme including the management of the new Small Grants Programme. All other costs relating to the delivery of the programme will be delivered through existing budget and identified reserves.

### 3.9 Proposed governance of the new Voluntary and Community Sector Funding Programme

- (a) As set out in 3.7 (e) the grants applications will be assessed by officers which are trained. All officers in the assessment will be expected to declare their interests and will be supported to undertake their role. Senior manager will provide support and moderation where needed at both Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the process.

- (b) Following the assessment process officers will develop a programme which will consider the following:
- Scorers for application
  - Response to the grants theme / priority
  - Equalities consideration
  - Geographic spread
- (c) This will provide a list of projects that will be funded and those that will not be funded. Relevant service officers will be engaged in the development of this list. A report setting out the programme including key considerations including an Equality Analysis will be developed to support decision making.
- (d) To ensure the grants process is open and transparent the decision making for grants will be delegated to the Chief Executive. This will ensure there is no Mayoral or Member level involvement in the decision making of grants.
- (e) The Chief Executive will consider recommendations from officers and engage the Council's Corporate Leadership Team to seek their expert views on the implications before the Chief Executive makes the decision.
- (f) The Chief Executive's decision will be reported to the Grants Determination Sub-Committee for noting and to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comments. The Council is currently seeking independent advice on the grants governance process to ensure it is robust and in line with our duties when determining grants. An update on this will be provided to Cabinet in April 2023.

### **3.10 Next Steps**

- (a) Work is on-going to develop a prospectus for the Mayor's Community Grants Programme. The Mayor and Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living will be consulted before it's finalised and launched in April 2023. Work is also being undertaken to scope the support that will be made available to VCS organisations with making grant applications and this will be announced before the grants goes live.
- (b) Further work to review current monitoring arrangements for grants programme will be undertaken to establish revised arrangements which will be incorporated into the contracts for all grants. Funded organisations will be monitored on a quarterly basis through monitoring reports and visits. This will be reported to the Grants Determination Committee on a quarterly basis.
- (c) The Council will publicise the application processes for new funding programmes, including through its website and monthly VCS Newsletter. All publicity and communication will be updated where required including frequently asked questions. The Council will also work other local partners to ensure that they use their communication channels to publicise the above.

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**



- 4.1** Extensive engagement and consultation has been undertaken in the development of this policy and outcomes framework. It has engaged 309 individuals and 144 VCS organisations. The events were arranged to ensure a diverse section of the community voices were heard and provided opportunities to engage at different times, various location across the borough, using different methods of engagement. The outcomes of these events will support the development of the specification and prospectus for the grants programme.
- 4.2** An equality screening has been completed and at this stage there are no evident future adverse impacts on any protected characteristic groups that would arise from the implementation of the policy and outcomes framework and associated grants programme. The equalities screening will be updated at key points in the development of the programme and decision-making process.
- 4.3** A detailed Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken to support the decision making on grants awards. This will consider the implications of the potential decommissioning of current projects, including the impact on residents from groups who have been principal beneficiaries of these programmes, such as elderly and disabled people. It will present options to mitigate any potential negative impacts for protected characteristics groups relating to the above changes, including proposed timescales for any interventions.

## **5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Best Value Implications – The Council is committed to ensure the grant provides best value for money and this is one of the key principles of the grants as set out in para 3.4 (c). Regular monitoring on progress of delivery will be reported to the Grants Determination Sub Committee and officers will work with funded organisations to ensure the projects achieve the outcomes set out in the agreement.
- 5.2** Consultations – Details of consultation and engagement undertaken in the development of the grants programme is set out in para 3.3 (b) and Appendix 2.
- 5.3** Risk Management – The development of the policy and outcomes framework has used a project management approach which has identified key risks, issues and mitigations. This includes timeline, proposed governance process and conflicts of interests. The mitigations around these areas are set out in the report.

There are no other specific statutory implications relevant to consideration of this report.

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

- 6.1 The Council's MTFS includes £4.50m annual funding for voluntary sector grants, including £0.98m funding from the Public Health grant for services that are eligible for the use of the Public Health grant.
- 6.2 The administration costs of the grant programme should be contained within approved staff and non-pay budgets.

## **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to undertake grant funding in the manner suggested in this report.
- 7.2 The Council has a legal duty to obtain Best Value in terms of economy efficiency and effectiveness when delivering its functions. One of the main methodologies to assist with the compliance of this duty is ensuring that the award of grants is subject to assessment of pre-determined criteria with awards going to the best scoring applications. One of the key parts of the evaluation will be the requirements stated in the prospectus which will highlight the requirements for applications to be considered successful.
- 7.3 The report details a two-stage process of evaluation. The main legal principle is that applications are assessed in an open and transparent way and without discrimination. The proposed approach is lawful as the Council will be stating the success criteria for both parts in advance of applications (as part of the prospectus) and an evaluation panel is being formed to assess all applications on the same basis. The level of resources input across the schemes will be significant and the proposed approach to moderation (being only where the assessors show a significant variance) is reasonable in the circumstances.
- 7.4 The nature of grants means that restrictions on available resources may not allow either for the total amount of requested grant to be given or not allow for the full range of activities under the application to be carried out when measured against those available resources. The report details an exercise where the applications and activities are tailored following the evaluation process and the final grant agreed. However, the Council will detail in the process the criteria for bids to reach that stage and ensure that all bids are treated equally within each evaluated area.
- 7.5 European State Aid law ceased to apply to the UK when the UK left the EU. However, as part of the trade deal, the UK agreed to introduce a similar regime into domestic law. The Subsidy Control Act 2022 came into force in January this year. This introduced the requirement for the Council to undertake several pre-award considerations and the Council must undertake this process before making a grant in any event. These considerations will be included in the evaluation process. However, whilst it is likely that the grants may be considered a subsidy for the purposes of this legislation it is unlikely that any of the grants will cause a significant distortion of the market given the nature of the recipient organisations or may constitute "minimal financial assistance" and therefore be lawful subsidies under the act. The Council will

also keep a record of the organisations who receive a grant and the value of the grant to track total levels of minimum financial assistance in any given 3-year period

- 7.6 The report identifies that many beneficiaries of the VCS run projects are people who have a protected characteristic for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010. It is possible that the decision to award new grants may have a disproportionate impact on user groups dependent on the results of the evaluation exercise. Therefore, prior to making the award the Council will consider the potential effect of stopping the old grants and making the new ones from an equalities perspective. Notwithstanding the foregoing the Council will undertake a separate exercise to review the grants before they are made against the Subsidy Control Principle as stated in the Act.
- 7.7 In the event that the Council determines that there is under representation in any particular group with a protected characteristic it is not open to the Council to withdraw an offer of funding from one bidder and award to a lesser scoring bidder on the basis of trying to balance the inequality. This is because the Council must continue to treat all applicants fairly and in accordance with the pre-advertised criteria. However, the Council will need to seek other ways to mitigate the imbalance such as signposting to alternative services, allocating further funds specifically to address the imbalance or the internal delivery of services to meet the identified need.

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

### **Linked Report**

- NONE

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1 Tower Hamlets Priority Needs
- Appendix 2 – Engagement report
- Appendix 3 – Outcomes Framework

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

- NONE

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

N/A

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## Draft Tower Hamlets Priority Needs

### Introduction

This needs analysis provides an overview of borough's population, and evidence of need against the proposed themes for the council's funding programme for the voluntary and community sector. It includes evidence about inequalities where available.

The release of information from the 2021 Census is ongoing. Census information is included where available.

### What is the local picture in terms of our population?

#### Population Growth

Tower Hamlets has the fastest growing population of any Local Authority Area across England and Wales. Between 2011 and 2021 the population in Tower Hamlets increased by 22% from 254,096<sup>1</sup> to 310,300<sup>2</sup>.

Tower Hamlets is also the most densely populated borough in England with 15,695 residents per square kilometre compared to an average of 424 per square kilometre in England<sup>3</sup>.

#### Gender

In 2021, 50.2% of Tower Hamlets residents were male and 49.8% were female<sup>4</sup>. Tower Hamlets has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest proportion of males in England and Wales and was 1 of 11 local authority areas where males formed the majority of residents.

#### Age

The median age in the borough in 2021 was 30 years of age, making Tower Hamlets the youngest borough by median age in England and Wales<sup>5</sup>.

#### Ages of Tower Hamlets Residents: Census 2021

Age group	0 – 19 years	20 – 64 years	65+ years
Number of residents	72,600	220,300	17,300

<sup>1</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2011

<sup>2</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

<sup>3</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

<sup>4</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

<sup>5</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

Percentage of residents	23.4%	71%	5.6%
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The number of residents in all age groups has grown since 2011. The greatest growth was seen in the working age population, with a 25% increase in the number of 20 – 64 year-olds.

In percentage terms, there has been a decline in the proportion of older people and Tower Hamlets is the only local authority area in the country to have less than 6% of the population aged 65+.

## Ethnicity

Ethnic group that Tower Hamlets residents identify with: Census 2021

Ethnic group (main census categories)	Asian/Asian British	Black/Black British, Caribbean or African	Mixed or multiple	White	Other
Number of residents	137,856	22,693	15,409	122,266	12,082
Percentage of residents	44.4%	7.3%	5.0%	39.4%	3.9%

According to the 2021 Census, 61% of the borough's population belong to Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic groups, comprising mostly of Bangladeshi residents (35%). Tower Hamlets still has the largest Bangladeshi population in England as a whole. The other populous ethnic groups include White British (23%), White Other (16%), and Black African (5%).

Census 2021 data shows that not all people identifying Somali or Somalilander identified their ethnicity as Black and some identified their ethnicity as Somali with Black Caribbean background. As a combined group, anyone identifying their ethnicity as Somali or Somalilander comprised of 6180 residents (2% of all residents), which is the 8<sup>th</sup> highest proportion in England. Further analysis of this community will be undertaken with release of more data.

## Religion and belief

Tower Hamlets has the highest percentage of Muslim residents in England and Wales (40%), compared with a national average of 7%. Over a quarter of the borough's population do not have a religion (27%), this is the same as London (27%). Around 22% of residents are of Christian faith, which is the lowest proportion in England and Wales<sup>6</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

## Languages

The Census 2021 data shows that among residents aged 3 and over, 73% speak English as their main language. 21% do not have English as their main language, but speak English well or very well, and 6% of residents cannot speak English or speak English well. The proportion of residents reporting they cannot not speak English well or at all is the eighth highest in the country.

The most spoken languages in the borough other than English are Bengali (with Sylheti and Chatgaya) (11%), Italian (2.2%), Spanish (1.7%), French (1.2%) and Portuguese (1%)<sup>7</sup>.

This diversity is reflected in Tower Hamlets' schools, where 153 known languages are spoken by pupils. The top three main languages for pupils are Bengali (46%), English (37%) and Somali (3%), reflecting the 61% of students who identify as Bangladeshi/British Bangladeshi<sup>8</sup>.

## What is the local picture in terms of needs?

### Tackling the Cost-Of-Living Crisis

*This section summarises available evidence on poverty and deprivation. It is important to note that much of the national data predates the current cost-of-living crisis.*

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) provide insight into levels of deprivation in neighbourhoods in Tower Hamlets relative to other parts of England. By 2019, only 1.4% of the borough was in the 10% most deprived areas in England, down from 40% in 2010.

The Indices also provide insight into the differences between different wards and neighbourhoods. As *Figure 1* shows, deprivation is much higher in the North of Tower Hamlets in comparison to the South. Canary Wharf, Island Gardens, Blackwall and Cubitt Town and St Katherine's & Wapping (areas where many of the major investment banks are located), are less deprived.

### **Figure 1: Index of Multiple Deprivation by LBTH ward**

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<sup>7</sup> Office for National Statistics, Census 2021

<sup>8</sup> Summer 2022 School Census

## Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019)

A methodology to measure deprivation at a localised geographic level. A higher value means less deprivation.

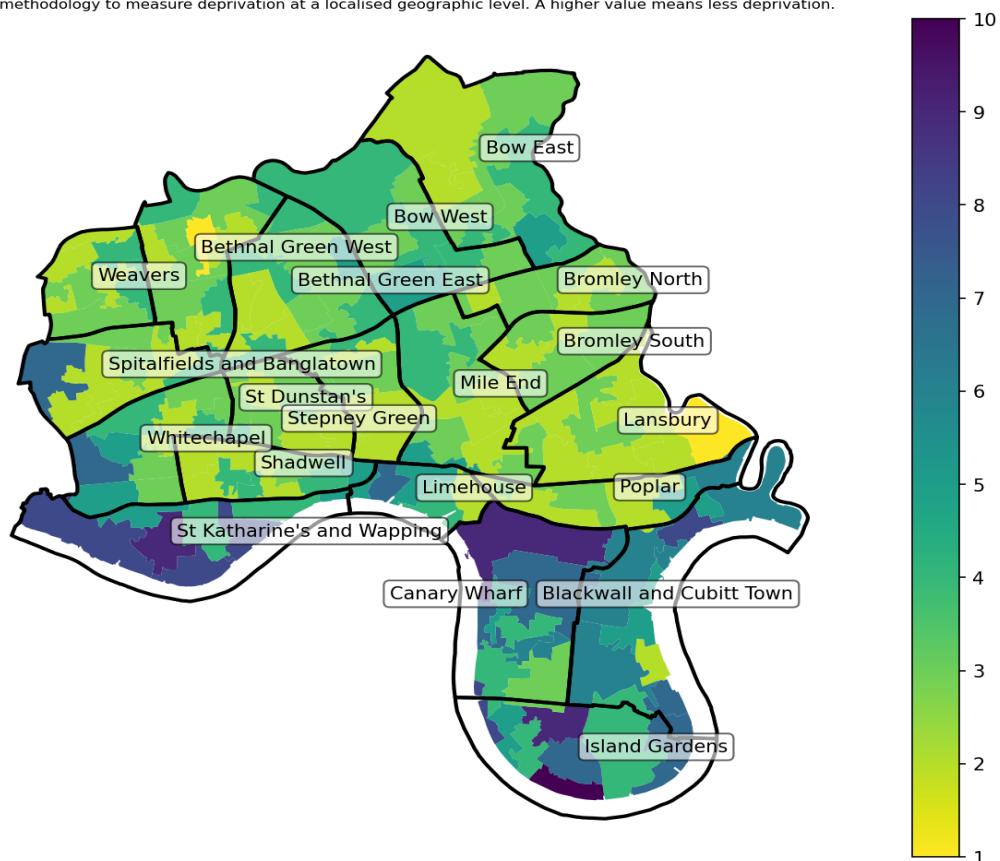


Figure 1: Indices of Multiple deprivation (IMD2019), ONS 2019

Some residents of the borough are disproportionately at risk of poverty:

- Tower Hamlets has high levels of child poverty. 25% of children lived in relative low-income families in March 2020, the joint highest figure in London and within the highest fifth of areas nationally. Once housing costs are taken into account, levels of child poverty in Tower Hamlets are amongst the highest in the country.
- Pensioner poverty is also a key challenge in the borough. Although the number of older people is small, 44% of our older people live in income deprived households, which is higher than in England and more than double the average<sup>9</sup>.
- Although it is not possible to break-down borough-level poverty, at a London-wide level, Londoners from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, disabled Londoners or families with a disabled member, lone parents with children, and workless families have a higher than average risk of being in poverty.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Index Multiple Deprivation 2019

<sup>10</sup> Trust for London, London Poverty Profile 2022



- There are other groups of residents who face specific risks in relation to poverty, for example, residents with no recourse to public funds.

The Low-Income Family Tracker is a tool used by the council to support its cost-of-living interventions. It combines local authority data with modelling to identify households who may need additional support. The tracker does not cover all households, but it does provide a reasonably current picture of the current pressures facing low-income households. As of end 2022 the tracker indicates that as a percentage of low-income households in the borough:

- 39% are living in relative poverty, with higher poverty levels in some areas such as Poplar (43%), and amongst low-income couples with children (55%), and non-working lone parents (68%)<sup>11</sup>
- A quarter (25%) are currently in council tax arrears,
- 82% are in water poverty (water costs account for 3% or more of their disposable income),
- 47% are in fuel poverty (fuel expenditure would bring income below poverty line)
- 16% are in food poverty (their minimum acceptable food expenditure is higher than their income after priority costs)<sup>12</sup>.

The Survey of Londoners commissioned by the Mayor of London is an important source of sub-regional data, although gathered at the end of 2021 before the cost-of-living crisis began. Of residents in the 'City and East London' area (Tower Hamlets, Newham, Barking and Dagenham, and City of London)<sup>13</sup>:

- 25% were living in low or very low food security, the highest level in London
- 26% of parents reported low or very low food security among their children, the highest level in London
- 18% reported they could not keep their home warm enough in winter, the second highest level in London
- 22% were unaware of a list of financial hardship support organisations including local welfare schemes, food banks, and other local advice services
- 14% were unaware of specific forms of financial hardship support including council tax support, council local welfare and crisis support, universal credit, housing benefit and other discretionary payments

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<sup>11</sup> Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT), October 2022

<sup>12</sup> Low Income Family Tracker (LIFT), October 2022

<sup>13</sup> Greater London Authority (GLA), Survey of Londoners 2021-22

## Accelerate Education

*This section summarises available evidence about educational outcomes for children and young people in Tower Hamlets*

Amongst the youngest children, the proportion of early years pupils achieving a good level of development in Tower Hamlets (61%) is less than the London (68%) and England (65%) averages. Girls (68%) are significantly more likely than boys (54%) to achieve a good level of development. Children from White backgrounds (64%) are more likely than children from Non-White backgrounds (60%) to achieve a good level of development.<sup>14</sup>

By the end of primary school, pupils in Tower Hamlets schools achieve in line with their peers: 64% meet the expected standard in English, Writing and Maths, close to the London average (64%) and above the England average (59%).

By age 16, pupils in Tower Hamlets schools achieve less well than their London peers but better than their national peers. The proportion of pupils in Tower Hamlets achieving a strong pass (grades 9 - 5) in English and Maths (54%) is less than London (57%) and higher than England (50%). Tower Hamlets pupils achieving standard pass (grades 9-4) in English and Maths (71%) is less than London (74%) and higher than England (69%).<sup>15</sup>

At all stages, girls have higher attainment levels than boys. Pupils with special-educational needs (SEN) have significantly lower attainment levels in the borough than pupils with no SEN. Children and young people whose first language is not English have higher attainment than pupils whose first language is English at all stages. Pupils eligible for means-tested free school meals have lower attainment levels than pupils not eligible for free school meals: however, the gap is one of the lowest in the country<sup>16</sup>. White Boys have the lowest attainment levels in the borough.

Tower Hamlets also has a relatively high proportion of pupils with special education needs and disabilities (SEND). Pupils who need extra help with their learning beyond what schools can provide are issued with an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHC Plan). In 2022, 5% of pupils in Tower Hamlets schools had an EHC Plan (or its predecessor, a statement of special educational needs) – the fourth highest rate in London<sup>17</sup>.

The Tower Hamlets Pupil Attitude Survey in 2022 asked school pupils about their future plans. It found that around one third of primary and secondary pupils say they will either not attend university/higher education or are unsure. 9% of primary pupils say they will not attend university or higher education (this is higher than in 2017- 5%), while 27%

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<sup>14</sup> Department for Education, Early years foundation stage profile results 2021/22

<sup>15</sup> Department for Education, Key stage 4 performance 2021/22

<sup>16</sup> Education Policy Institute, Education in England: Annual Report 2020

<sup>17</sup> Department for Education, Special educational needs in England 2021/22

are unsure. 6% of secondary pupils say they will not attend university or higher education (this is higher than in 2017- 4%), while 23% are unsure. Boys (10%) are more likely than girls (6%) for all pupils to say they will not attend university or higher education. White pupils (20%) are more than double the average for all pupils (8%) to say they will not attend university in the future<sup>18</sup>.

The proportion of working aged population (16-64) year olds in Tower Hamlets, with a National Vocational Qualification is less than in London across all levels. 83% of the working aged population have an NVQ 1 and above qualification, compared to 87% regionally. 77% have an NVQ 2 and above qualification, compared to 82% regionally. 65% have an NVQ 3 and above qualification, compared to 71% regionally. 52% of the working aged population have an NVQ 4 and above qualification, compared to 59% regionally<sup>19</sup>.

## **Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills**

*This section summarises the available evidence on residents' access to jobs, training and apprenticeships, and opportunities for residents to participate in sporting and cultural activities.*

Tower Hamlets has a large and diverse economy, with 1.32 jobs for every working adult in the borough<sup>20</sup>. However, 86% of jobs in the borough are filled by non-residents. Residents are more likely to work in the distribution, hotels and restaurant sector, public administration, education, and health sectors<sup>21</sup>.

Most Tower Hamlets-based businesses are micro-enterprises (89%) although these have decreased 5% since 2019, probably as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. While since 2019, small-enterprises have grown, and medium and large enterprises have also grown slightly, however, they all jointly only account for 11% of all businesses based in the borough<sup>22</sup>.

74% of Tower Hamlets' working aged population (aged 16-64 years) are economically active, which is below the average for London (76%) and Great Britain (76%). Of those who are economically active, 71.4% are in employment and 5.2% are unemployed but would like to work, which is higher than the unemployment rates in London (4.7%) and Great Britain (3.8%). Over a quarter (26%) of the working aged population are economically inactive and therefore are either in full time education, caring for family, too sick to work, retired, or do not wish to work<sup>23</sup>.

There are considerable disparities in employment rates:

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<sup>18</sup> Tower Hamlets Pupil Attitude Survey 2022

<sup>19</sup> ONS, Annual Population Survey 2021

<sup>20</sup> ONS, Annual Population Survey (2021-22)

<sup>21</sup> ONS, Annual Population Survey 2016-19 (3-year average)

<sup>22</sup> ONS, Inter Departmental Business Register, 2022.

<sup>23</sup> ONS, Annual Population Survey (2021-22)

- 59% of working age women in Tower Hamlets are employed, a much lower level than men (82%), and than women in London (72%) and Great Britain (72%).<sup>24</sup> In addition to this, the ethnic employment (White vs Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic) gap amongst women is twice as wide in the borough (36%) compared to London (15%).<sup>25</sup>
- The ethnic (White vs Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic) gap in employment rate in Tower Hamlets (27%) is twice as wide as the ethnic gap in employment rate in London (12.5%).
- 86% of residents with a higher-level qualification are in employment compared to just 30% of those with no qualifications. Less than half (42%) of all disabled people aged 16-64 years were in employment, compared with nearly three quarters (72%) of the non-disabled population.<sup>26</sup>

The borough initially saw a sharp rise in the number of people out of work as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, however, the number of people claiming out of work benefit for being unemployed (out of work, able to work and actively seeking work) has been consistently higher than London and Great Britain. As at October 2022, 5.1% of the working aged population were claiming universal credit, which is higher than London (4.7%) and Great Britain (3.6%)<sup>27</sup>.

The proportion of 16- and 17-year-olds in Tower Hamlets who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), including those whose post-school activity is unknown is 3%, which is in line with the London average (3%), and less than the average in England (4.7%)<sup>28</sup>.

The 2021 Annual Resident Survey found that one in four residents reported having volunteered at least once over the previous 12 months: 12% had volunteered outside the borough, and 17% had volunteered in Tower Hamlets. revealed that some of the most used services in the borough include parks and open spaces (81%), recycling services (73%), libraries or IDEA stores (54%), and leisure and sports facilities (51%). While some of the least used services include children social care services (10%), adult social care services (11%), disabled people services (14%), Education services for adults (11%), nurse (17%), secondary (23%) and primary (28%) children and young people; and housing benefit services (33%). Of these services, the most highly rated by residents were the education services, libraries or IDEA stores, parks and open spaces, and recycling services.

Children and young people in the borough are participating significantly less in positive activities compared to 2017, according to the 2022 Pupil Attitude Survey.

- Only 14% of both primary and secondary pupils had been to an Idea Store or public library in the four weeks prior to the survey, only 39% of primary and 41%

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<sup>24</sup> ONS, Annual Population Survey (2021-22)

<sup>25</sup> Borough Profile 2020

<sup>26</sup> ONS, Annual Population Survey 2016-19 (3-year average)

<sup>27</sup> ONS, Inter Departmental Business Register, 2022.

<sup>28</sup> DfE, Participation in education, training and employment 2021/22

of secondary pupils had read a book, and only 22% of both primary and secondary pupils had participated in a sports club or class outside of school.

- Only 8% of primary and 13% of secondary pupils had been to a youth centre or club to take part in organised activities, and even less had participated in a music group or lesson (5% primary, 3% secondary) outside of school.
- Primary pupils are almost twice as likely than secondary pupils to participate in art, craft, dance, drama, and film/video- making groups outside of school (22% primary, 12% secondary).

## **Invest in public services**

*This section provides a brief overview of evidence on residents' health and wellbeing.*

The Indices of Multiple Deprivation Health domain indicates that Tower Hamlets was the 98<sup>th</sup> most deprived local authority area in England (out of 317) in 2019, having been the 56<sup>th</sup> most deprived in 2015.

Findings from the 2021 Annual Resident Survey indicate that 74% of residents perceived themselves to be in good health, almost a quarter (24%) felt lonely often or always, and 63% were physically active for over 2.5 hours a week.

Overall, life expectancy in 2018 to 2020 was higher for women (83.3 years) than for men (79.9 years), a trend that is common across London<sup>29</sup>. However, healthy-life expectancy at birth for females in Tower Hamlets is 57.8 years, lower than that for males (65.3 years), and the average for females in London (65 years) and England (63.9 years). Female healthy life expectancy has been consistently low in the borough and is now the lowest among all London boroughs<sup>30</sup>.

Babies in Tower Hamlets were more likely to be born with a low birth weight (4%) than in London (3%) or England (3%)<sup>31</sup>. 45% of Tower Hamlets' children in Year 6 are overweight or obese, a higher level than London (41%) and England (38%)<sup>32</sup>.

In 2017, 23% of 16+ year olds in Tower Hamlets were estimated to have a common mental health disorder, well above the England average of 17%<sup>33</sup>. The prevalence of depression in the borough has steadily risen every year since 2012/13, as it did across London and England as a whole. Latest 2021/22 data shows that 9% of adults in Tower Hamlets aged 18+ are recorded as having depression, similar to the average for London (9%) and below the average for England (13%)<sup>34</sup>. In 2020, dementia prevalence among

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<sup>29</sup> Trust for London, London's Poverty profile 2022: [Life expectancy by London borough](#)

<sup>30</sup> Office for National Statistics, Health state life expectancies UK, 2018-2020

<sup>31</sup> Public health England, Public Health Profiles, 2020

<sup>32</sup> Public health England, National Child Measurement Programme, England, 2021/22

<sup>33</sup> Public health England, Public Health Profiles, 2017

<sup>34</sup> Public health England, Public Health Profiles, 2021/22

over 65s in Tower Hamlets was 4.93%, higher than the average for London (4.17%) and England (3.97%)<sup>35</sup>.

The highest wellbeing concern for residents is anxiety. The proportion of adults in Tower Hamlets reporting low levels of life satisfaction (3%), feeling things they do in life are not worthwhile (2%), and high levels of anxiety (18%) are less than in London and England. While 9% of adults in the borough reported low levels of happiness, similar to London (9%) and less than England (8%)<sup>36</sup>.

In 2020, 6,744 of older people in Tower Hamlets lived alone, which is projected to steadily rise in line with the projected increase in the older population<sup>37</sup>.

## **Empower communities and fight crime**

*This section summarises available data on crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough.*

Findings from the 2021 Annual Resident Survey indicates that people from different backgrounds generally get on well together (79%), with 76% of residents having friends from a different ethnicity.

Crime and anti-social behaviour are consistently identified as a priority challenge by residents in the council's Annual Resident Survey. In the 2021 survey, 6% of residents reported that they do not feel safe during the day, while 26% do not feel safe at night. 31% of residents do not feel public services and police are successfully dealing with safety issues in the borough.

In 2021/22 Tower Hamlets recorded 34,416 total offences (all crime), ranking 3<sup>rd</sup> highest volume in London. The Pandemic had a significant impact on some types of crime and there is now an upward trend to previous crime levels.

Latest 2021-22 service data indicates that although the levels have fallen from the previous year, the main community safety and cohesion issues in the borough are still in relation to ASB and drugs. ASB reports to the Police (17,151) ranked highest in London, and while this had decreased compared to the previous year the figure is still on trend with previous years, and Tower Hamlets has ranked highest volume in this measure in London since 2019/20. ASB reports to the council was 3,602, a 17% decrease from the previous year. It should be noted that the previous year ASB reports had increased significantly due to lockdown restrictions.

Drug supply and markets in Tower Hamlets are a driver of knife crime and ASB. Tower Hamlets as the highest prevalence in London of Class A drug users (3,244 users). In 2021-22 there were 548 drugs complaints to the council (a 44% decrease from the previous year), and 280 drugs complaints to Tower Hamlets Homes (a 7% decrease

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<sup>35</sup> Borough Profile 2020

<sup>36</sup> Office for National Statistics, Annual personal well-being estimates, 2021/22

<sup>37</sup> Projecting Older People Population Information System

from the previous year), while drug trafficking offences (306, a 105% increase) more than doubled from the previous year.

In 2021/22, the borough had 525 knife crime offences, ranking 7<sup>th</sup> highest in London. Whilst this is an increase of 9.4% compared to 2020/21 (owing to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on street crime), there has been an overall downwards trend in this measure since 2018/19. Approximately 50% of knife crime with injury (excluding domestic abuse) suspects and victims are males under the age of 25. This is a comparable picture across London.

There are 21 Organized Crime Groups with a connection to Central East Basic Command Policing Unit (Hackney & Tower Hamlets).

In 2021-22, there was an increase in ex-offenders engaged with education, training or employment (19% increase) and an increase in ex-offenders engaged with SMS (3% increase). This has contributed to a significant decrease in proportion of IOM adult re-offending rates (29% decrease).

In 2021/22, the borough had 4,390 domestic abuse incidents, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> in London. This is an increase of 8% from the previous year and reflects a rising trend in this measure since 2018/19. Throughout the Pandemic London saw increased reports and risks of domestic abuse.

Strong links exist between poverty or deprived neighborhoods' substance misuse and violence levels, something that may be exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis.

In 2021/22, Tower Hamlets had 1,277 hate crime offences reported, ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> in London. This is an 8% increase from the previous year. and this reflects a rising trend in this measure since 2018/19. Racist Hate Crime accounted for 64% of all Hate Crime offences in 2021/22.

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### Tower Hamlets New Grants Programme Engagement

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The Council conducted engagement activities between December 2022-January 2023 to support the development of the new Grants Policy & Outcomes Framework which consists of:

- A Mayor's Community Grant Programme for the voluntary and community sector (VCS), which will replace the current Local Community Fund programme in October 2023
- A Small Grants Programme that is proposed to commence in October 2023.

1.2 The engagement was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> December and concluded on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. It involved engagement with a range of external stakeholders:

- VCS organisations in the borough
- Residents of the borough
- People who work or study in the borough
- Any other interested partners or stakeholders

1.3 The total number of people engaged in this process totalled 309 and involved 144 VCS organisations.

1.4 The purpose of this engagement was to seek feedback on the themes and priorities proposed under the new grants programmes, and to further explore whether they address the needs of the community. The Council will consider all feedback obtained in the engagement process – and from the internal engagement process outlined in section 6 below - when finalising the Programme.

#### 2. Methods of Engagement

2.1 To ensure a cross section of the borough contributes to this process a range of different engagement methods were incorporated into the engagement plan.

##### (a) VCS Organisation Engagement Workshops

(i) Six engagement workshops with VCS organisations took place across different geographical areas of the borough, using a number of techniques:

- The Ecology Pavilion, Mile End on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (in-person)

- The Reach Community Hub, Poplar on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (in person)\*
- Osmani Centre, Whitechapel on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (in person) \*
- Virtual event 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (on-line)
- Professional Development Centre, Bethnal Green on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (hybrid: in person and on-line)
- St Luke's Millwall Church Hall, Isle of Dogs on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 (in person) #

\* Aimed at smaller VCS organisations with annual incomes of less than £150,000 a year.

# Aimed at VCS organisations of all sizes, but also covered Small Grants Programme

**(ii)** The workshops were facilitated by Council and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS) staff. They involved presentations from LBTH Cabinet members that highlighted the Council's commitment to the VCS.

**(iii)** The above workshops were publicised via:

- LBTH website consultation platform (Lets Talk Tower Hamlets)
- LBTH social media
- LBTH Councillors
- LBTH VCS Newsletter – December 2022 and special January 2023 edition
- THCVS web site, newsletter and officer networking
- Eventbrite web site

**(iv)** The workshops were attended by 155 people from 144 VCS organisations. Those in attendance were based in a wide range of localities in the borough and included organisations representing and supporting a range of protected characteristic groups.

**(b) On-line Engagement Survey**

**(i)** An on-line engagement survey took place between 6<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. It was set up on the Let's Talk Tower Hamlets Platform on the Council's web site.

**(ii)**

**(iii)** The survey was publicised via:

- Council Social media channels- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, intranet, website, members bulletin, VCS newsletter
- CVS Website and Newsletter
- other Council engagement activity on the proposed grant programmes – VCS engagement workshops and engagement with residents at the Ideas Stores

**(iv)** The survey was completed by 57 people. Breakdown of survey respondents includes:

- 31 respondents (35%) were Tower Hamlets residents
- 38% of respondents were people who work/study in the borough
- A quarter of respondents were responding on behalf of an organisation/group/association in the Tower Hamlets
- 2 business organisations in the borough responded.

**(c) Engagement with residents**

**(i)** Engagement events were held at Ideas Stores–Bow, Chrisp Street, Whitechapel and Cubitt Town Library between 16<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - This involved the set up of pop-up stalls in the Ideas Stores to engage residents visiting these facilities. An additional engagement session was organised by the Limehouse Project, where 30 women from Black, Asian & Multi-Ethic communities were engaged. A total of 97 residents were engaged as part of this process.

**3. Prioritisation of Mayor’s Community Grant Programme Themes**

**3.1** The engagement activity involved the Council:

- Sharing the proposed themes and priorities of the Mayor’s Community Grants programme and, where applicable, the proposed themes of the Small Grants Programme
- Asking participants to confirm which is the most important theme of the proposed Mayor’s Community Grant programme. This question was addressed in the on-line survey and resident engagement and in four of the six VCS engagement workshops.

**3.2** The Tackling the Cost-of-Living theme was identified as the most important one by all forms of engagement:

- 31% of respondents to this question from the VCS engagement workshops
- 63% of on-line respondents identified this as the top priority
- Feedback from resident engagement highlighted this theme as the most important priority, detailing difficulties in managing their families and spreading money that does not provide enough for bills and food.

**3.3** Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills was another theme that was identified as important by participants in the engagement:

- It was the second highest priority theme for participants in the VCS workshops, with 22%
- The second highest percentage of on-line survey respondents identifying it as extremely important: 52%

**3.4** The on-line engagement survey also asked respondents to identify the most important scheme under each of the proposed priorities. The schemes with the highest percentage are detailed below:

- 59% - Crisis Support for Tackling the Cost of Living theme
- 36% - Access to Youth Provision for Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills theme.

**3.5** In the VCS workshops the theme with the lowest percentage of respondents prioritising was Accelerate Education with 11%.

**3.6** In the on-line survey the theme with the lowest percentage of respondents identifying it as extremely important was Empower Communities and Fight Crime, with 41%.

#### **4. Outcomes and Activities for Mayor's Community Grant Programme**

**4.1** All participants in the VCS workshops and resident engagement were asked to identify potential outcomes and activities to be delivered under each of proposed Mayor's Community Grant programme themes. Respondents to the on-line survey were asked to identify potential activities under the programme themes. Their responses are summarised in Table 1.

#### **5. Small Grants Programme**

**5.1** The engagement process also obtained participants' views on what outcomes and activities should be delivered under the proposed Small Grants Programme themes. Their responses are summarised in Table 2.

**5.2** The online engagement survey sought feedback from respondents on how important they thought a number of proposed schemes for the Small Grants Programme are in terms of developing the VCS and support for residents. The schemes with the highest percentage of respondents seeing it as important were the following:

- Young people are prevented from becoming involved in harmful and/or anti-social activities: 45%
- Young people to improve their physical and mental health: 39%
- Reduce social isolation: 38%

## **6. Internal Council Engagement**

**6.1** Ten workshops were held with relevant senior managers in the council on the Mayor's Community Grant Programme and Small Grants Programme. This involved providing information on the proposed focus of the above programmes and to obtain feedback on what outcomes and activities they would like the programmes to deliver. A summary of this is included in table 1 & 2 below. These workshops took place between 10<sup>th</sup> January and 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023 with the following services:

- Benefits & Revenue
- Community Safety
- Culture & Commissioning
- Customer Services
- Education
- Growth & Economic Development
- Independent Living
- Integrated Commissioning
- Public Health
- Youth

**6.2** Two briefing sessions were held with elected members, on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023, involving 12 members in total. A summary of suggested outcome and activities are included in table 1 & 2 below.

**Table 1 – Mayor’s Community Grant Programme – Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
Cost of Living Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income maximisation and the reduction of the number of people who are living in poverty and debt</li> <li>• Residents are aware of their rights and obligations and what they are entitled to from the state i.e. benefits entitlements</li> <li>• Residents grow and develop new capabilities which stop them falling into poverty and help them escape it</li> <li>• Better health and enhanced wellbeing, including access to housing</li> <li>• Promoting independence, enabling local residents to be more independent from advice and Council services</li> <li>• Supporting residents to get access to nutritious food and drink</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tailored and holistic advice and support that uncovers the root causes of poverty,</li> <li>• One-stop shops across the borough</li> <li>• Interpreting services to support advice/guidance sessions</li> <li>• Food banks/co-operatives and community larders that provide food to hungry people, with links developed with advice services</li> <li>• Targeted support, including financial training, for groups more likely to be in poverty such as Somali and Bengali women</li> <li>• Education on finance management, energy savings, buying and cooking healthy food</li> <li>• Warm hubs</li> <li>• Increasing the capacity in the VCS to be able to engage in partnership initiatives such as the Resident Hub model.</li> <li>• Baby bank network – taking secondhand prams, clothes for babies and donating to families experiencing poverty.</li> <li>• School uniform banks, providing warm coats and actual money for new clothes – shirts and blouses.</li> </ul>
Accelerate Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in young people’s well-being, including mental health</li> <li>• Residents are able to speak in mother tongue languages to improve their overall learning outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holistic support to address young people’s well-being</li> <li>• Mother tongue education services and ESOL, including a focus on health and education</li> <li>• Innovative outreach support – e.g. in barber shops, embedding tutors within youth</li> </ul>

**Table 1 – Mayor’s Community Grant Programme – Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in young people’s leadership skills</li> <li>• Young people are enabled to secure good jobs</li> <li>• Improve the confidence of everyone – young and old - building resilience and self- esteem, developing relationships and aspirations</li> <li>• Reduction in anti-social behaviour, radicalisation, crime, substance abuse and post-code wars</li> <li>• Improved English language skills for residents who do not speak English</li> <li>• Development of skills for life</li> </ul>	<p>projects to support with homework clubs,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision for children and young people with Special Educational Needs</li> <li>• Music and cultural activities, featuring a diverse range of cultures.</li> <li>• Online safety guidance and support for young and older children and some specific groups of adults, such as women.</li> <li>• Targeted activity to improve the digital skills of vulnerable groups, such as disabled people</li> <li>• Skills for employability</li> <li>• Fast track training programmes that help young people to obtain employment – e.g. in Canary Wharf</li> <li>• Mentoring and provision of advice in schools, including focus on rights and responsibilities of citizens</li> <li>• After school clubs and mix-sports activities</li> <li>• Extracurricular educational activities for children who are in care</li> <li>• Engaging parents in lifelong learning</li> </ul>
<p>Culture, Jobs, Business and Skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting people into employment</li> <li>• Reducing poverty and social isolation</li> <li>• Reduction in crime</li> <li>• Improved perception of young people</li> <li>• Improved health outcomes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on a range of skills – digital, soft, language, functional, how to find work/CV writing</li> <li>• Local training and employment partnerships and projects for local people, including for people not in education, employment and training (NEETs) and women</li> </ul>

**Table 1 – Mayor’s Community Grant Programme – Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents take part in arts and culture activities for the first time</li> <li>• Residents’ confidence and mental health is developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Childcare and child-minding training for young mothers</li> <li>• Training courses on green issues and environmental volunteering</li> <li>• Arts &amp; craft and cookery classes</li> <li>• Targeted sports for women</li> <li>• Celebratory events – focusing on different culture, heritages and community histories</li> <li>• Cultural project which also provide employment</li> <li>• Conservation work and local history workshops</li> <li>• Film, arts and drama groups and exhibitions</li> <li>• Funding for cultural events throughout the year, with flexibility if unexpected events arise – e.g. the King’s Coronation</li> <li>• Enabling VCS organisations to use empty buildings and shops to provide services, activities, and events.</li> </ul>
Invest in Public Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved awareness of and access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services</li> <li>• Improved community cohesion</li> <li>• Residents’ aspirations are raised, with their confidence and resilience developed to empower them to make choices</li> <li>• Better educational outcomes</li> <li>• Improved mental and physical health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch clubs, coffee mornings, community cafes, gardening clubs and inter-generational groups to bring people together to tackle loneliness and social isolation</li> <li>• Coaching/mentoring/leadership programmes</li> <li>• Sports and wellbeing activities</li> <li>• Raising awareness of mental health and mental health support, including amongst Black, Asian &amp; Multi-Ethnic communities</li> <li>• Social prescribing, where patients are referred to community services</li> </ul>



**Table 1 – Mayor’s Community Grant Programme – Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced health inequalities in Tower Hamlet’s communities</li> <li>• Reduction in social isolation</li> <li>• Crime prevention</li> <li>• Residents gain new skills and feel more engaged</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meals on wheels services</li> <li>• Community events and fayres</li> <li>• Peer support and health and wellbeing support activities, including training in resilience</li> <li>• Befriending services for isolated people</li> <li>• Promoting discussions between young and older people e.g. local area and history</li> <li>• Diverse well-being activities for carers – e.g. yoga, arts &amp; crafts, museum visits</li> <li>• Activities specifically targeted at women and girls</li> </ul>
Empower Communities and Fight Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Men and boys are better educated on the need to respect women</li> <li>• Improved community cohesion, including between different communities and age groups</li> <li>• Reduction in crime, anti-social behaviour and drug use</li> <li>• Improved relationships between young people and people in authority – e.g. police</li> <li>• Reduction in structural racism</li> <li>• Ex-offenders’ life opportunities are enhanced, particularly in relation to sustainable employment</li> <li>• Improved opportunities for women and Black Asian &amp; Multi-Ethnic residents</li> <li>• Residents feel safer in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising campaigns, including education and awareness raising in schools on violence against women and girls</li> <li>• Providing culturally sensitive services to combat violence against women and girls, especially within the Somali community</li> <li>• Peer support projects for women, including for survivors of domestic abuse and for women aged 55+ and walking with women projects</li> <li>• Providing support for children and young people who are misusing drugs and alcohol</li> <li>• Self-defence classes for young people and women.</li> <li>• Youth clubs, after school clubs, breakfast clubs and school trips</li> <li>• Youth workshops focusing on community safety</li> <li>• Community safety projects to combat violence and hate</li> </ul>

**Table 1 – Mayor’s Community Grant Programme – Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
		<p>crime against LGBT communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement activities between police and local community.</li> <li>• Organising regular multicultural meetings and events to celebrate diversity.</li> <li>• 1-1 support for victims of crime</li> <li>• Fast track training for ex-offenders, leading to employment placements, with practical teaching opportunity and mentorship support</li> <li>• Social drop-in and activities for visually impaired people</li> <li>• Empowerment projects for people with learning disabilities</li> <li>• Sport and physical exercises for women, including free gym and swimming</li> <li>• Promotion of cycling with Black, Asian &amp; Multi-Ethnic communities</li> </ul>

**Table 2 – Small Grants Programme - Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
Mayor's Youth Empowerment Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of sense of pride and ownership for young people</li> <li>• Enhanced communication and leadership skills for young people</li> <li>• Improved confidence and enhanced aspirations for young people</li> <li>• Improved educational attainment</li> <li>• Young people's voices are heard</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training on range of areas - financial and project management, decision making and leadership. IT coding, careers advice</li> <li>• Resilience development</li> <li>• Sports - football, martial arts,</li> <li>• Arts projects</li> <li>• Mentoring projects, including peer mentoring</li> <li>• Social media projects</li> <li>• Early help hubs to support young people</li> </ul>
Positive Activities for Young People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements in life skills, public facing skills, confidence and safety</li> <li>• Enhanced mental and physical health</li> <li>• Improved understanding of intergenerational differences</li> <li>• Better understanding of different cultures and diversity</li> <li>• Girls feel safe about participating in community activities</li> <li>• Ensuring that young people can disconnect from constant IT usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth centres</li> <li>• Out of school term clubs</li> <li>• Arts &amp; crafts and science projects</li> <li>• Summer camps.</li> <li>• Sports – e.g. swimming, martial arts classes.</li> <li>• Theatre</li> <li>• Meditation classes</li> <li>• Educational trips.</li> <li>• Mentoring activities and information advice &amp; guidance</li> <li>• Inter-generational activities with elderly communities.</li> <li>• Trips out of London and overseas</li> <li>• Visits to farms and national heritage sites</li> <li>• Development activities focusing exclusively on girls.</li> </ul>

**Table 2 – Small Grants Programme - Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
Community Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of confidence</li> <li>• Promoting community cohesion and better understanding between different communities</li> <li>• Improved health and well-being</li> <li>• Better participation in sporting activities</li> <li>• More representative community activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Older Peoples Tea Dance with entertainment</li> <li>• Borough wide celebrations to mark specific events and local history: International Womens Day, Black History Month, LGBT History Month</li> <li>• Health and wellbeing events, involving health checks and healthy activities</li> <li>• Outdoor events that explore local landscape</li> <li>• Festivals, cultural celebrations and arts events</li> <li>• Dance and learning to dance</li> <li>• Cultural celebrations, art events and exhibitions, including photographic exhibitions</li> </ul>
Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced infrastructure and expertise within VCS organisations</li> <li>• Improved management and governance practices adopted by VCS organisations</li> <li>• VCS organisations are enabled to develop their potential and expertise</li> <li>• Shared expertise between VCS organisations, particularly smaller ones</li> <li>• VCS organisations are able to deliver targets and deliverables</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interventions to deliver additional or reactive/emergency work to secure programme and project targets</li> <li>• Capital costs and premises renovation and development – e.g. equipment, new boiler</li> <li>• Support in accessing external funding – e.g. bid writing workshops</li> </ul>

**Table 2 – Small Grants Programme - Proposed Outcomes and Activities Identified By Engagement Process**

Programme Theme	Proposed Outcomes	Proposed Activities
	<p>agreed with funders and to survive emergency situations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mentoring and peer support for larger VCS organisations</li> <li>• Development, networking and peer support for smaller VCS organisations</li> <li>• Training</li> </ul>
<p>Community Chest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved relationships within the community, including improved inter-faith cohesion</li> <li>• Removing barriers to people taking part in activities</li> <li>• Enabling people to get together, reducing loneliness and social isolation, building relationships and promoting cultural awareness</li> <li>• Promoting a sense of community, belonging and civic pride</li> <li>• Personal development of beneficiaries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family-focused health and well-being events</li> <li>• Celebratory events, trips and exchange visits to promote understanding between different cultures and religions</li> <li>• Training</li> <li>• Payment for project running costs - transports, leaflets, and refreshments</li> <li>• Buying new equipment</li> <li>• Day trips</li> <li>• Concerts and theatres for people who have not experienced such events before</li> </ul>

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**Appendix 3– Grants Programmes Outcomes Framework**

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
<p><b>Mayor’s Community Grants Programme</b></p>	<p><b>Theme 1 – Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis</b></p>	<p>£900,000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased access for residents to social welfare advice and income from benefits</li> <li>• Residents reporting/ experiencing improved personal budgeting, financial stability, and a reduction in personal debt.</li> <li>• Residents are helped to reduce the negative impacts of welfare reforms and housing re-possession.</li> <li>• Residents in crisis are supported</li> <li>• Residents grow and develop new capabilities which stop them falling into poverty and help them escape it</li> </ul>	<p>Proposed continuation of successful existing model of advice and information provision on welfare and benefits, supplemented by more direct support for local residents on poverty issues to address the cost-of-living crises increase</p> <p>Above proposed mix of provision would be more holistic and widen the range of support for residents in the face of the cost-of-living crises .</p>	<p>Priority 1 Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis</p>

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better health and enhanced wellbeing, including access to housing</li> <li>• Supporting residents to get access to nutritious food and drink</li> <li>• Better health and enhanced wellbeing, including access to housing</li> <li>• Supporting residents to get access to nutritious food and drink</li> <li>• Access to safe spaces where people build relationships and feel supported</li> <li>• Residents grow and develop new capabilities which stop them falling into poverty and help them get out of it</li> </ul>		



Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local residents gain Learning to Advise and other accredited advice qualifications</li> <li>• Local residents have improved opportunities for paid employment in the advice sector</li> <li>• Improved quality of advice service received by local residents</li> <li>• Increased access to high quality social welfare and law information for residents and advisors.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Theme 2 – Accelerate Education</b>	£700,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved educational attainment of children and young people</li> <li>• Improve young people’s well-being,</li> </ul>	<p>Address key priority in Strategic Plan to accelerate education and development of children</p> <p>Address borough wide priority to address digital exclusion</p>	<p>Priority 3: Accelerate education</p> <p>Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure</p>

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<p>including mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people are able to speak in their first language to improve their overall learning outcomes</li> <li>• Improvements in young people's leadership skills, confidence, resilience and self-esteem, developing relationships and aspirations</li> <li>• Improve access to youth services</li> <li>• Young people are enabled to secure good jobs</li> <li>• Reduction in anti-social behaviour, radicalisation, crime, substance abuse and post-code wars</li> </ul>		

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve development of young children.</li> <li>• Reduce digital exclusion amongst black, Asian and multi-ethnic residents, older people, low-income families and those with a disability</li> <li>• Improve the confidence of residents, building resilience and self-esteem, developing relationships and aspirations</li> <li>• Residents are able to speak in their first language to improve their overall learning outcomes.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Theme 3 - Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills</b>	£650,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting people into employment</li> <li>• Increased employment and progression</li> </ul>	Continued need to support residents from groups who are traditionally disadvantaged in the labour market –	Priority 3 Accelerating Education  Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<p>opportunities for groups with low employment levels including Black, Asian &amp; Multi-Ethnic communities, disabled people women and young people who are NEET by addressing the barriers to employment that they face</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing young people's career prospects and employability skills</li> <li>• Improved employment prospects for disabled people</li> <li>• Enabling residents to benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities, that improve their mental and physical well-being.</li> </ul>	<p>disabled people, young people who are NEET – to access advice, training and mentoring to enable them to progress onto education, employment and training opportunities. The level of the above needs will increase with the ongoing cost of living increase.</p> <p>Need to continue focusing on working with employers, as well as programme beneficiaries, to ensure that they are responsive to needs of groups that are disadvantaged in labour market.</p> <p>All borough residents should be able to benefit by participating in local cultural and sporting opportunities</p> <p>Need to engage the VCS, and through it, local residents, to help</p>	<p>Priority 7: Working Towards a Clean and Green Future</p>

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased engagement in physical activities and sport, particularly by young girls, women and people from Black, Asian &amp; Multi-Ethnic communities</li> <li>• Enabling residents take part in arts and culture activities for the first time</li> <li>• Improved health outcomes, both physical and mental, and confidence through participation in physical activities, sport and cultural activities</li> </ul>	make Tower Hamlets a greener borough	
	<b>Theme 4 – Invest in Public Services</b>	£800,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved physical and mental health outcomes for older people</li> <li>• Older residents are better positioned to manage health conditions and make healthy choices</li> </ul>	Need to support the wider community with interventions supporting residents to improve their health by accessing services and participating in activities that would improve their wider physical and mental health.	Priority 3 Accelerating Education  Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased engagement in physical activities by older people</li> <li>• Older residents are better positioned to manage health conditions and make healthy choices</li> <li>• Older residents are supported by neighbourhood initiatives to feel that they are part of the community and are less socially isolated.</li> <li>• Improved physical and mental health outcomes for residents</li> <li>• Residents are better positioned to manage health conditions and make healthy choices.</li> <li>• Socially excluded residents are</li> </ul>	<p>Above need has been heightened and highlighted by the impact of COVID-19 in the borough and its negative impact on number of protected characteristic groups.</p>	

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<p>supported by neighbourhood initiatives to feel part of the community and less socially isolated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced health inequalities in Tower Hamlet's communities.</li> </ul>		
	<b>Theme 5 - Empower Communities and Fight Crime</b>	£450,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce inequalities faced by groups with different protected characteristics</li> <li>• Protection of children and young people</li> <li>• Combating domestic violence</li> <li>• Reducing crime and anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Improved opportunities for women and Black Asian &amp; Multi-Ethnic residents</li> <li>• Reduction in structural racism</li> </ul>	<p>Addressing inequalities faced by particular groups, a key priority for the Strategic Plan</p> <p>A number of key recent studies and strategic priorities focus on reducing inequalities faced by these groups</p> <p>Delivery of provision to meet a key priority of the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 – community safety.</p> <p>Community safety a key priority for residents in Annual Residents Survey</p>	Priority 6 Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved community cohesion, including between different communities and age groups.</li> <li>• Residents feel safer in the community</li> <li>• Creation of safe places for women and young people</li> <li>• Reduction in crime, anti-social behaviour and drug use</li> <li>• Improved relationships between young people and people in authority – e.g. police</li> <li>• Ex-offenders' life opportunities and employment opportunities are enhanced</li> <li>• Men and boys are better educated on the need to respect women</li> </ul>		
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,500,000</b>			



Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
Small Grants Programme	Youth Opportunity Fund	250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young people are enabled to develop their potential in all areas of life</li> <li>• Young people are assisted to improve their physical and mental health</li> <li>• Young people are prevented from becoming involved in harmful and/or anti-social activities</li> </ul>	Need to invest in small grants provision for services for children and young people to enable small voluntary and community sector organisations, with local community-based roots, to work with groups of young people to fully develop their potential	Priority 3 Accelerating Education  Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure  Priority 5 Investing in Public Services  Priority 6 Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime
	Positive Activities for Young People	£250,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children benefit from developing relationships with other children from a range of communities</li> <li>• Children enabled to participate in leisure opportunities and physical activities with improved health outcomes</li> <li>• Maintenance of children's safety during holiday period,</li> </ul>	Need to widen leisure and network opportunities for children during the holiday periods  Provision of safe opportunities for children to play and mix with other children during the holidays  Addressing cost of living crisis by providing children, many of which are from low-income	Priority 1 Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis  Priority 3 Accelerating Education  Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure Priority 5 Investing in Public Services  Priority 6 Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			whilst enabling their parents to go to work without additional childcare costs	families, with opportunities to benefit from leisure activities in the holiday, whilst enabling their parents to go to work without childcare costs, for time of activities	
	Community Events	100,000	<p>Promotion of community cohesion</p> <p>Reduction in social isolation</p> <p>Enabling communities, including those based on localities and/or protected characteristics, to celebrate and improve their neighbourhood</p>	<p>Need for grant funding for community events to bring residents in the borough together</p> <p>Need for events to promote civic pride, including within communities and protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>Small groups have access to particular communities which they can develop and empower</p>	<p>Priority 1 Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis</p> <p>Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure</p> <p>Priority 6 Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime</p> <p>Priority 7 Working Towards a Clean and Green Future</p>
	Mayor's Capacity Building	100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smaller VCS organisations are assisted to improve their services, thus improving the support</li> </ul>	Need for targeted support for smaller VCS organisations who may have higher level development needs	Priority 1 Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<p>for their beneficiaries and organisations' wider activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smaller VCS organisations are enabled to develop their systems and procedures, thus ensuring that they are able to stay in existence and support local residents</li> <li>• Smaller VCS organisations representing particular protected characteristic groups can be supported to develop and extend their network</li> </ul>	<p>Need to support the continued existence of smaller, locally-based organisations, who may be financially challenged during current period of cost of living increase</p> <p>Important to support smaller VCS organisations working to support communities that may be particularly excluded, isolated and unrepresented</p>	<p>Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure</p> <p>Priority 5 Investing in Public Services</p> <p>Priority 6 Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime</p> <p>Priority 7 Working Towards a Clean and Green Future</p>
	Community Chest	100,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction in isolation amongst vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Enabling communities, including those based on localities and/or protected characteristics, to</li> </ul>	<p>Need for grant funding for community events to bring residents in the borough together</p> <p>Need for events to promote civic pride, including within communities and</p>	<p>Priority 1 Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis</p> <p>Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure</p> <p>Priority 5 Investing in Public Services</p>

Programme	Themes	Indicative Annual Budget (£s)	Outcomes	Case for this programme	Strategic Plan 2022-26 Priorities Addressed
			<p>celebrate and improve their neighbourhood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen community cohesion</li> </ul>	<p>protected characteristic groups.</p> <p>Small groups have access to particular communities which they can develop and empower</p>	Priority 6 Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>800,000</b>	•		
<b>Emergency Funding</b>		100,000	<p>VCS organisations who may face major and unforeseen financial emergencies, as a result of significant loss of funding, receive support, helping them to survive. Council support for VCS organisations through Emergency Funding is usually accompanied by support for the organisation to develop long-term financial sustainability</p>	<p>Would be required to support VCS organisations who lose Council funding with the transition to new VCS funding options.</p> <p>Short-term Council support for financially threatened organisations could ensure their continued existence to deliver vital services for local residents. Organisations' closure would negatively impact on the Council's reputation.</p>	<p>Priority 4 Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Leisure</p> <p>Priority 5 Investing in Public Services</p> <p>Priority 6 Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime</p>