

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Monday, 9 October 2023 at 6.30 p.m.
Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel**

Supplemental Agenda

3.1 Call in of Mayor's Community Grants Programme 2023-27 (Pages 3 - 198)

Contact for further enquiries:

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<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>



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<p>Non-Executive Report of the:</p> <p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>9 October 2023</p>	
<p>Report of Janet Fasan Divisional Director Legal and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Call in - Mayor's Community Grants Programme 2023-27</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Thomas French, Democratic Services Officer (Committee)
Wards affected	All

CONSIDERATION OF THE CALL IN

A call in request has been received on the decision of the Chief Executive on 25 September 2023.

In accordance with the Council's call in procedure rules, the matter is referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) for its consideration and to decide whether to refer the matter back to Cabinet for further consideration. The following procedure is to be followed by the Committee for consideration of the Call In:

- i. Chair to invite a call-in member to present call-in.
- ii. Chair to invite members of the Committee to ask question.
- iii. Chair to Invite Cabinet Member to respond to the call-in.
- iv. Chair to invite members of the Committee to ask questions.
- v. Followed by a general debate.

It is open to the OSC to either resolve to take no action (which would have the effect of endorsing the original Cabinet decisions), or to refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Overview and Scrutiny considers:

1. The contents of the attached report, review the Cabinet's decision (provisional, subject to call in) arising; and
2. Decide whether to accept the decision or to refer the matter back to the Cabinet with proposals and reasons.

INTRODUCTION

At the 29 March 2023 meeting of Cabinet, the Chief Executive was delegated to make this decision, as a result on 25 September 2023 **APPROVED** the following:

1. Agree the Mayor's Community Grants Programme (MCGP) and funding to individual organisations as set out in Appendix D of this report for the period 1st November 2023- 31st March 2027.
2. Authorise Interim Divisional Director for Strategy, Improvement & Transformation to approve detailed funding agreements setting out the outcomes the projects are expected to achieve for the funding allocated and achievements of any conditions of grant.
3. Note the Equalities Impact Analysis and the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraphs 4.1-4.8 (of main report) and Appendix A and agree mitigating actions set out in full Equality Impact Analysis.
4. Note the various assurance processes incorporated in the grant making process as summarised in paragraph 3.17 and set out in relevant sections of the report.

The decisions above have been Called-In by Councillors Mufeedah Bustin, Asma Begum, Sirajul Islam, James King, Amy Lee. This is in accordance with the provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules of the Council's Constitution.

In accordance with the OSC Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 4th June 2013, any Member(s) who present(s) the "Call In" is (are) not eligible to participate in the general debate.

REASONS FOR THE CALL IN

The call in requisition from the Councillors noted above has provided reason(s) for the call-in. The reason(s) are replicated below:

The aforementioned Councillors, call in the above decision taken by the Chief Executive on the 25/9/23, they do so on the following grounds:

1. It is in contravention to Part A, Article 3, Section 1, Subsections d and f of the Borough of Tower Hamlets Constitution: 'Principles of Decision-Making':

d) a presumption in favour of openness

The Council has a statutory duty under the CIL Regulations 2010 to set aside 15% of CIL income as NCIL in areas where there is no neighbourhood plan and 25% where there is a neighbourhood plan in place.

NCIL area 3 has a neighbourhood plan in place, however, it is noted that the three wards that make up NCIL 3 (Island Gardens, part of Canary Wharf ward and part of Blackwall & Cubitt Town ward) received the lowest number of submitted bids (para 3.8 of report) and therefore a lower number of awards.

The report does not provide detail on which individual awards are funded by NCIL and lacks transparency on whether NCIL has been correctly allocated to the areas based on.

The geographic maps in Appendix E of the report highlights only 7 projects awarded funding on the Isle of Dogs are ward specific the remainder are borough specific and it is unclear how many beneficiaries from the Isle of Dogs will receive the desired outcomes of the grant awards. However, when reading the details of the 7 projects, it is clear that only 3 of these projects are actually ward specific, and that the remaining 4 either cover "E14" or list almost every other ward in the borough. It is unclear how the "boroughwide" projects will have such a broad reach given the average award is £30,000 and whether NCIL funded projects will actually result in any outcomes for the area in which NCIL should be spent.

It is unclear how Appendix G: Guiding Principles For Use of NCIL was created and how this relates to the projects awarded/

f) take account of all relevant matters

The award to the advice consortium has reduced (when inflation is considered) however the demand for income and benefits advice is crucial to those struggling with the Cost of Living crisis. In addition, the removal of funding to THCAN and THCVS who both support the voluntary sector with training and support is short-sighted and may lead to funded charities becoming unsustainable.

The report has an EQIA Amber rating, with specifically named omissions for projects supporting the safety of residents with disabilities, and LGBTQIA residents. The removal of funding for these projects when hate crime is on the rise is counter-intuitive.

ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED

1. Ask the Mayor to examine whether funding for the Mayor's Community Grants Programme would be better sourced from alternative sources.

2. Allocate more funding to the VCS organisations based in NCIL 3.
 3. Re-examine the grants making process to proportionally allocate by CIL area if funded by CIL.
 4. Allocate more funding to the advice sector and consortiums.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

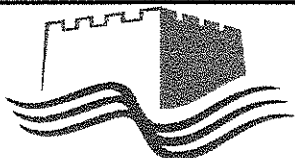
- None

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Mayor's Community Grants Programme 2023-27

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended) List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

- None.

Chief Executive Decision	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Interim Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation	Classification: [Unrestricted]
Mayor's Community Grants Programme 2023-2027	

Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Decision Notice Publication Date:	11 th August 2023
General Exception or Urgency Notice published?	Not required
Restrictions:	None
Reason for seeking Chief Executive Decision	Cabinet agreed a new <u>Grants Policy and Outcomes Framework</u> at its meeting in March 2023 to replace the current policy and grants programme. As part of this, it agreed to establish the MCGP to replace the Local Community Fund which ends on 31 st October 2023. Cabinet agreed to delegate decision making powers on grant award to the Chief Executive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents proposals for funding 110 projects provided by voluntary and community sector organisations through the Mayor's Community Grants Programme (MCGP).

The MCGP will run between 1st November 2023 – 31st March 2027 and will provide £11.96m of funding to the VCS over the 41 months period.

Despite many councils reducing their funding for the voluntary and community sector, Tower Hamlets has increased the level of spending on the sector through the corporate grants programme by nearly £1m per year, across three key grants programmes as agreed by Cabinet in March 2023.

The Mayor's Community Grants Programme was established with an annual budget of £3.5m. Despite the high level of funding available the programme was significantly oversubscribed. We received 308 project applications from 170 organisations totalling nearly £11.3m per year. This is over three times the available budget and has meant some strong bids have not been recommended for funding. The grant programme has been subject to rigorous

external assurance and internal challenge by senior officers of the Council and overseen by the Chief Executive. Lessons learned have been captured and will be used to inform future grant initiatives.

Full details of the decision sought, including setting out the reasons for the recommendations and/or all the options put forward; other options considered; background information; the comments of the Chief Finance Officer; the concurrent report of the Head of Legal Services; implications for Equalities; Risk Assessment; Background Documents; **and other relevant matters are set out in the attached report.**

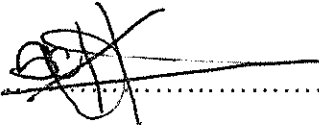
DECISION


The Chief Executive is recommended to:

1. Agree the Mayor's Community Grants Programme (MCGP) and funding to individual organisations as set out in Appendix D of this report for the period 1st November 2023- 31st March 2027.
2. Authorise Interim Divisional Director for Strategy, Improvement & Transformation to approve detailed funding agreements setting out the outcomes the projects are expected to achieve for the funding allocated and achievements of any conditions of grant.
3. Note the Equalities Impact Analysis and the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraphs 4.1-4.8 (of main report) and Appendix A and agree mitigating actions set out in full Equality Impact Analysis.
4. Note the various assurance processes incorporated in the grant making process as summarised in paragraph 3.17 and set out in relevant sections of the report.

Chief Executive

I have been delegated this decision by Mayor in Cabinet March 2023 and I approve the recommendations above.

Signed  Date 25/9/23

Corporate Leadership Team	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Interim Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation	Classification: [Unrestricted or Exempt]
Mayor's Community Grants Programme 2023-2027	

Lead Member	Councillor Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and Cost of Living
Originating Officer(s)	Afazul Hoque, Head of Corporate Strategy & Communities Robert Mee, VCS Grants Lead Craig Morbey, Strategy & Policy Lead
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Reason for Key Decision	Over £1m expenditure and impacts all wards
Forward Plan Notice Published	[Insert date notice was published – see forthcoming decisions webpage]
Exempt information	<i>None</i>
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	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

Executive Summary

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Despite many councils reducing their funding for the voluntary and community sector, Tower Hamlets has increased the level of spending on the sector through the corporate grants programme by nearly £1m per year, across three key grants programmes as agreed by Cabinet in March 2023.

The Mayor's Community Grants Programme was established with an annual budget of £3.5m. Despite the high level of funding available the programme was significantly oversubscribed. We received 308 project applications from 170 organisations totalling nearly £11.3m per year. This is over three times the available budget and has meant some strong bids have not been recommended for funding. The grant programme has been subject to rigorous external assurance and internal challenge by senior officers of the Council and overseen by the Chief Executive. Lessons learned have been captured and will be used to inform future grant initiatives.

Recommendations:

The Chief Executive is recommended to:

1. Agree the Mayor's Community Grants Programme (MCGP) and funding to individual organisations as set out in Appendix D of this report for the period 1st November 2023- 31st March 2027.
2. Authorise Interim Divisional Director for Strategy, Improvement & Transformation to approve detailed funding agreements setting out the outcomes the projects are expected to achieve for the funding allocated and achievements of any conditions of grant.
3. Note the Equalities Impact Analysis and the specific equalities considerations as set out in paragraphs 4.1-4.8 and Appendix A and agree mitigating actions set out in full Equality Impact Analysis.
4. Note the various assurance processes incorporated in the grant making process as summarised in paragraph 3.17 and set out in relevant sections of the report.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Cabinet agreed a new Grants Policy and Outcomes Framework at its meeting in March 2023 to replace the current policy and grants programme. As part of this, it agreed to establish the MCGP to replace the Local Community Fund which ends on 31st October 2023.
- 1.2 Following a process for inviting voluntary and community sector organisations to bid for the MCGP, assessments, moderation, and programme design work were completed. This report sets out recommended projects to be funded for the period between November 2023- March 2027 valuing £3.5m annually.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council could decide not to fund any projects in the Mayor's Community Grants Programme. This is not recommended as the Grants Policy and Outcomes Framework notes the voluntary and community sector

plays an important role in improving outcomes for local people and is in many instances the first call for support from local people.

- 2.2 The Council could fund a different programme from that recommended. The MCGP is based on a policy framework and designed with the sector and agreed by Cabinet in March 2023. The invitation to bid, assessment and design of the programme were all in accordance with the Cabinet decision and as set out in the programme prospectus. Therefore, it is not recommended to move away from the agreed process.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Context

- 3.1 The Council's [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. In March 2023 Cabinet agreed a new Grants Policy & Outcomes Framework with a commitment to 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'. This builds on our recognition that 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 to the pandemic, the subsequent recovery as well as throughout the current cost of living crisis.
- 3.2 The main principles that underpin our new vision are:
- 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
- 3.3 As part of the agreement of the Grants Policy and Outcomes Framework, Cabinet established the MCGP for the period between November 2023 – March 2027 with an annual value of £3.5m. The MCGP consists of the following themes, priorities and budgets which are based on a needs assessment which can be found [here](#):

Schemes	Priorities	Indicative Annual Budget
Theme: Tackling the Cost-of-living crisis		
1A Advice and Information	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 maximisation	
	Support for residents in crisis needing immediate support	
Theme: Accelerate Education		
2A – Education attainment and development of children and young people	Community-based study support	£700,000
	Community language development	
	Community-based provision for children with Special Educational Needs	
	Extracurricular activities and after school provision	
2B – Lifelong Learning	Skills for life and lifelong learning	
	English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)	
	Digital Inclusion	
Theme: Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills		
3A - Employment and skills opportunities for socially excluded residents	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	
3B Sports and local culture and heritage	Local culture and heritage	
	Sports activity	
Invest in public services		
4A – Physical and mental wellbeing of older people	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	
4B - Physical and mental health of residents	Promoting health and wellbeing through tackling inequality	
Empower communities and fight crime		

Schemes	Priorities	Indicative Annual Budget
5A – Inequalities experienced by people and communities reflecting different equality groups and social economic backgrounds	Addressing inequality for Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities and women	£450,000
	Creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together	
5B – Community safety	Tackling drug and alcohol issues	
	Promoting safer communities	
	Supporting ex-offenders	
	Gang intervention and prevention	
	Victim support	
	Violence against women and girls	
Total		£3,500,000

Bidding Process

- 3.3 The MCGP opened for bidding on the 24th of April 2023 for 6 weeks, closing at midday on 5th June 2023. Organisations had to apply through the online application process that has been used on previous grants programmes. Organisations were required to submit an Organisation Information Form and a Project Form for each project applied for. Substantial training and support were provided for applicants including an extensive communications and marketing plan, 3 information events delivered by the Council which were attended by 115 people, and 21 training sessions delivered by Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services who were commissioned to provide support to organisations applying for MCGP. Further details of this support are set out in Appendix B - Training and Support.

Assessment of Bids

- 3.4 Assessments were undertaken through a two-stage process. Stage 1 was an organisation assessment and Stage 2 was a project assessment. Applicants had to submit an organisation application and a project application and had to meet the three essential criteria of the organisation bid and the Project bid to be assessed. The details of how to apply, scoring criteria and assessment process were set out in the publicly available prospectus, available [here](#) with details in Appendix C – Assessment Process. All assessments were carried out by Council officers with one officer undertaking the Stage 1 assessment. Organisations had to pass three essential criteria to move to stage 2. The three areas were Governance, Managing Money, and Borough Connection. If an organisation failed Stage 1 these were then put forward for moderation by a Senior Manager. Organisations that failed other areas of the organisation assessment in Stage 1 assessment moved onto Stage 2. Those organisations recommended for grant award as part of the grant mobilisation process they

will be required to provide evidence or action plan to demonstrate they pass these areas. Below is a summary of stage 1 assessments:

Stage 1 overview:

- 170 Organisation bids were submitted
- 15 Organisation bids did not submit a Project bid
- 155 Organisation bids were assessed
- 12 Organisation bids did not meet the criteria following assessment and moderation

- 3.5 The Project assessments (Stage 2) were undertaken by two officers for each project. If the overall score had a difference of more than 10 then this was moderated by a Senior Manager. Otherwise an average of the two assessors scores was taken as the project score. Below is a summary of stage 2 assessments:

Stage 2 overview:

- 308 project bids were submitted
- 10 Project bids were submitted without an Organisation bid
- 2 Project bids were duplicates
- 20 Project bids were submitted by the 12 Organisation bids that did not meet the criteria at Stage 1
- 276 Project bids were assessed

- 3.5 An independent Audit was carried out on the assessment process by external auditors to provide process assurance against pre-defined criteria as set out in the prospectus. The audit covered the following:

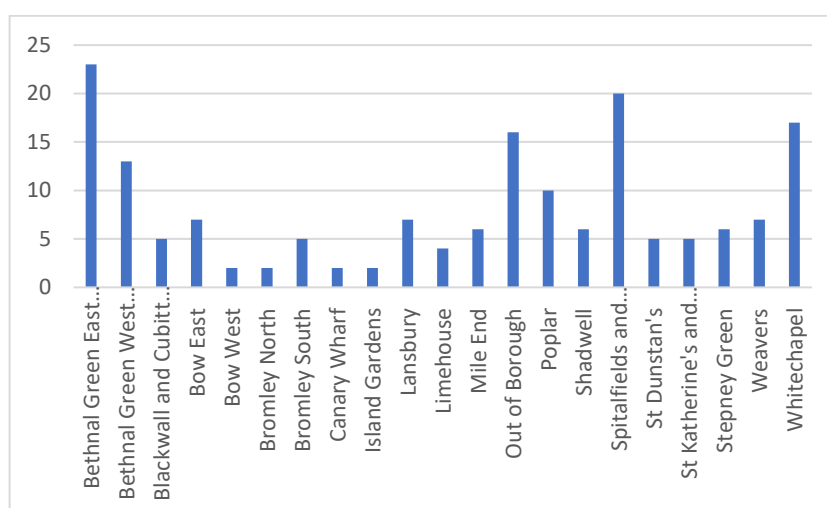
- Selection and Training of Grant Assessors: review the process for the selection and training of grant assessors, to ensure suitability and transparency.
- Due diligence in Assessment and Moderation – Suitability of Organisations: review a sample of fifteen organisations – five for each category of selected, rejected, and moderated - to assess their suitability against Council's pre-defined criteria and the consistency of the rationale provided for the decision in the moderation process.
- Grant Assessment & Moderation – Projects: For a sample of fifteen projects – five for each category of selected, rejected, and moderated - establish whether the grant assessment was done in accordance with pre-defined criteria and the moderation process and confirm that there is a clear audit trail to support the rationale and decision.

- 3.6 Following the findings of the audit the auditors were able to provide a reasonable assurance over the governance, risk management and controls in operation for all three areas that were reviewed. The only recommendation from the Audit is to undertake learning on difference in scoring between assessors to ensure this can be used for future grant assessment. Two learning events have been held with moderators and assessors and this will feed into future grants programme and guidance on grants management.

3.7 The total value of the bids received (amount per year) was over £11m as set out below which is approximately three times the available budget:

Theme	Bids Received	Annual Budget
1 - Tackling the Cost-of-living crisis	£1,757,759	£900,000
2 - Accelerate Education	£2,413,008	£700,000
3 - Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills	£2,932,595	£650,000
4 - Invest in Public Services	£2,860,121	£800,000
5 - Empower Communities and Fight Crime	£1,335,254	£450,000
Total	£11,298,737	£3,500,000

3.8 The graph below shows the geographic distribution of where organisations which submitted bids are based. This shows that most organisations which submitted bids are based in the borough. Only 16 bids (9%) came from organisations which are based outside of the borough. The highest number of bids came from organisations based in Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) with 13.5% and Spitalfields and Banglatown with 11.8%. The lowest number of bids in a ward were 2 (1.2%) in Bow West, Bromley North, Canary Wharf and Island Gardens respectively.



Mayor's Community Grants Programme 23-27

3.8 Following the assessment of Stage 2 as set out in para 3.5 a long-list of projects who had passed all requirements set out in the prospectus was established. To develop a recommended list of projects the following considerations were applied:

- Scores for applications
- Response to the grants theme / priorities
- Equalities consideration
- Geographic spread
- Support to diverse range of organisations (a key principle of the grant)
- Consideration of funding amount to be recommended (The council is seeking to achieve maximum impact for local people from a limited budget.)

3.9 Once a recommended list of projects was established it was sent to relevant service areas to get their feedback on any duplication of existing projects, any issues with proposed organisations recommended for funding and their comments. The recommended projects reflect this feedback and are set out in Appendix D.

3.10 The projects recommended for funding support a wide range of groups and benefit all sections of the community. It includes a mix of small, medium, and large organisations and ensures that the programme provides borough-wide coverage. The programme includes a balance of new projects from organisations which are not currently funded along with organisations that are currently funded with projects which develop and take forward existing services. Of the 86 organisations (including consortia partner organisations) recommended for funding through the Mayor’s Community Grants Programme, 38 have not been funded in the previous two Council main grants programmes while an additional 14 have not been funded in the current grants programme.

Organisations previously funded through:	No. of Organisations (lead only)	MSG Annual Amount awarded	LCF Annual Amount awarded	MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Annual Amount
MSG 2015-18 only	14	£429,507.41	0	£517,046
Local Community Fund (LCF) only	11	0	£602,568.94	£399,643
MSG and LCF	15	£827,638.03	£1,744,836.62	£1,492,135
New to Mayor’s Community Grants Programme	38	0	0	£1,090,947
Total	78	£1,257,145.44	£2,347,405.56	£3,499,771.00

3.11 A key principle of the Mayor’s Community Grants Programme is to support a diverse range of organisations. This provides long-term funding and allows organisations to use Council funding to secure funding from range of other sources. The 78 lead organisations supported (not including consortia partner organisations) breakdown as follows:

Mayor’s Community Grants Programme 2023-27		
Size of Organisation	No. of Organisations recommended for funding	% of organisations recommended for funding
Large (£250k+)	46	59%
Medium (£150k-£250k)	12	15%
Small (less than £150k)	20	26%
Total	78	100%

3.12 For the Mayor’s Community Grants Programme it was important that small and medium organisations had the opportunity to deliver multiple projects if they had the capability and expertise. The recommended 110 projects delivered by the 78 lead organisations show that 42% of the projects will be delivered by small or medium-sized organisations:

Mayor's Community Grants Programme 2023-27							
Size of Organisation	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Total	% split
Large (£250k+)	4	15	15	18	12	64	58%
Medium (£150k-£250k)	2	3	7	5	1	18	16%
Small (less than £150k)	0	12	6	7	3	28	26%
	6	30	28	30	16	110	100%

- 3.13 In contrast, the previous Local Community Fund programme funded mainly large organisations with only 20% of the projects delivered by small or medium-sized organisations:

Local Community Fund 2019-23				
Size of Organisation	No. of Organisations recommended for funding	% of organisations recommended for funding	No. of Projects awarded funding	% of organisations delivering projects, by size
Large (£250k+)	29	74%	40	80%
Medium (£150k-£250k)	7	18%	7	14%
Small (less than £150k)	3	8%	3	6%
Total	39	100%	50	100%

- 3.14 The geographic spread of services recommended for funding are shown graphically in Appendix E. There are many projects which borough wide coverage which will ensure all sections of the community benefit from the grant programme. A large proportion of the projects are focused on areas where there is higher deprivation (north of the borough). It should also be noted that many of the VCS organisations are based in the north of the borough.
- 3.15 The annual level of funding for each project range in size from the advice consortium of 14 providers at £720,000 to the £5,156 recommended for the St Margaret's House – The Children's Making Tree Project. The average level of funding for each theme is set out in the table below. The Theme 1 average reflects the Advice Consortium recommended for £720,000. The average funding for the 5 other projects in Theme 1 is £36,000.

	Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5
Number of projects	6	30	28	30	16
Average level of funding	£150,000	£23,365	£23,506	£26,418	£28,007

- 3.16 In the prospectus and information events it was explained it would not be possible to fully fund all the amounts that organisations requested. For

themes 2 – 5 an annual amount of £40,000 was the limit that could be requested. In majority of the cases, the recommended project funding is less than this figure. As part of the programme mobilisation the Council will support grant recipients to re-work their original proposal to ensure they are able to deliver services that meet the project aims, ensure value for money and project sustainability, and provide high-quality services to residents.

Grant development assurance

3.17 To develop a transparent, accountable and fair process for the MCGP the Council put in place a number of internal and external assurance processes. This included the following:

1. Advice from Kings Counsel on the Grant decision making process – The advice was positive and considered the process set out in the Cabinet report in March to be both sensible and reasonable in its approach. It highlighted the need to consider best value which is a key feature of the assessment and to ensure the proposed grant delivers the priorities set out in our prospectus. It also emphasises the need to consider the Public Sector Equality Duty and to continue follow the process that was agreed by the Cabinet. This report sets out the process followed as agreed by Cabinet and the equalities implications section of the report regards to the Public Sector Equality Duty.
2. External Audit of assessment and moderation process – Paragraphs 3.5-3.6 provides further details.
3. Review by lead service areas – Paragraph 3.9 provides further details.
4. Equality Impact Analysis, Quality Assurance – Paragraphs 4.1- 4.8 provides further details.
5. Internal Challenge Session – An internal challenge session was organised with Directors from various services to review and provide challenge on the recommended grants project. The summary recommendations from this are set out below:

Recommendation 1	Develop a corporate grant register
Recommendation 2	Develop and extend similar high standards of assurance corporately for all council grant programmes
Recommendation 3	Capture learning from the new grants programme to feed into corporate standards on grants
Recommendation 4	In future grants programme where groups will be offered less money than they requested be useful to ask what they can deliver for 75% or 50% of the requested funding.
Recommendation 5	If third party are commissioned to manage and deliver Council grant, ensure in the procurement of this we clearly state they need to follow the Council's standard on grants
Recommendation 6	Any gaps identified and mitigation are detailed in the report and future presentations.

Recommendation 7	As part of project learning engage with groups to identify ways of improving reach to 'seldom heard groups'.
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6. The outcome of the grant decision will be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee on 9th October and Grants Determination Sub Committee on 11th October 2023.

Subsidy Control Act 2022

- 3.17 The Subsidy Control Act (SCA) 2022 is the UK's new domestic subsidy control regime, replacing State Aid regulations with UK's exit from the European Union. The Act allows public authorities, such as local authorities, to give subsidies that are tailored to local needs or drive economic growth while minimising distortion to UK competition and protecting the UK's international obligations.
- 3.18 The Council has conducted an assessment process to determine whether proposed MCGP grant awards are compatible with the principles of SCA, judging that they are compatible. The Council's legal service has reviewed the application of the Subsidy Control Principles in respect of MCGP grant schemes and has confirmed that the grant scheme complies with SCA. Please see Appendix F Subsidy Control Act Principles 2022 (should be read in conjunction with [MCGP prospectus](#) and [Priority Needs Analysis](#)) which outlines information on:
- the principles that the grants awards/subsidies would adhere to
 - clarification of the nature and purpose of the grant awards/subsidies
 - evidence required for the grant awards/subsidies, including:
 - o Tower Hamlets evidence
 - o potential scenarios for the borough if subsidies are introduced or are not introduced
 - o information on how grant awards/subsidies would be implemented in the borough
 - remedies to be delivered by grant awards/subsidies

Currently funded services and available support

- 3.18 Some activities currently funded through the Local Community Fund will not be funded through the Mayor's Community Grants Programme. Some of these may be significant, good quality services which no longer meet highest priority needs but which are, none the less, important in their communities. The Council recognises that in any period of change it is important to ensure that this happens in a managed, orderly way and that, as far as possible, adverse impact on the sustainability of organisations and quality provision for their service users is mitigated. A full Equalities Impact assessment has been undertaken and further details is provided in section 4 of the report and Appendix A.
- 3.19 To reduce the impact of change the Council will:

- Work with organisations to seek alternative provision for service users where a service is significantly reduced or comes to an end.
- Work with funded organisations especially at contract mobilisation to target and promote new services funded under the MCGP.
- Support a programme of capacity building to increase organisations' chance of bidding successfully from future Council programmes and other funders
- Provide support through the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services to those organisations that were not successful
- Launch a new Small Grants Programme including a capacity building theme to enable organisations to secure funding to develop their organisation
- Launch the refreshed Emergency Grant to support organisations that may face closure
- Work with Tower Hamlets Funders Forum to help identify further opportunities for funding locally, regionally and nationally
- Develop the Council's funding page and Newsletter to raise awareness of funding, training and support availability

Budget

3.20 The Mayor's Community Grants Programme will be funded by combination of grants as set out below:

Funding Source	No. of Projects	Annual Budget	3.5 Year Budget
Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)	71	£2,504,494.00	£8,765,729.00
Public Health Grant	39*	£980,000.00	£3,430,000.00
General Fund	* One PH funded project to be part funded by GF	£16,822.00	£58,877.00

3.21 The Infrastructure Programme Team has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of each recommended project against the NCIL criteria, a total of 71 out of 110 projects have been approved for NCIL funding, for 3 and half years. The yearly amount allocated from NCIL will be £2,504,494. The remaining 39 projects will be funded separately by the Public Health grants. The Public Health grant is up to £980,000 a year, and the overspend amount of £16,822 will be funded from the general fund. The guiding principle for the assessment and use of NCIL is set out in Appendix G.

Next Steps

- 3.22 Following the decision by the Chief Executive work will commence on the mobilisation process to work with the recommended projects to enable them start delivery from November 2023. As set out above feedback to unsuccessful organisations will be offered and support provided as necessary.
- 3.23 The agreed recommendations will be presented by the Chief Executive to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9th October and the Grants Determination Sub Committee on 11th October 2023.

3.24 Work will commence to communicate the outcome to residents and organisations including consideration of a MCGP conference to bring together all the providers of service and enable opportunities to collaborate, refer and support the projects.

3.25 Quarterly monitoring of all projects will be undertaken and reported to the Grants Determination Sub Committee.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Mayors Community Grants Programme has been designed to promote equality in Tower Hamlets. It was designed using the following principles:

- 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.

4.2 The new programme will have wide ranging positive impacts, for example:

- **Advancing Equality of opportunity** through the reduction of targeted inequalities, for example female employment rates and health & wellbeing
- **Fostering good relations** between groups through a focus on community cohesion, cultural events and education
- **Reducing discrimination** by supporting projects from across the community and more specific interventions for example advice and support to educate residents on legal rights.

4.3 Funded projects have a significant range of positive impacts for residents with protected characteristics, including:

- Age
- Disability
- Sex
- LGBTQIA+
- Religion (through provision focused on hate crime)
- Race
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic status
- Parents /carers

4.4 These projects were designed and funded by using evidence and data to respond to key need in the borough.

4.5 Equalities considerations have been built into the grant application process and award criteria to ensure that:

- Prospective organisations had comprehensive Equality and Diversity Policies for i. Recruitment, ii. Planning and provision of services, and iii. Overall management of the organisation

- Any proposed project would promote community cohesion and address inequalities impacting those with 'Protected Characteristics' living in the Borough
- Organisations could evidence good knowledge of the local neighbourhoods, needs, services and demographic
- Equalities considerations, geographic spread of projects and project scores have been balanced in order to make robust funding recommendations

4.6 In comparing the recommended projects to the previous Local Community Grant funding and the identified need in the borough and the full equality impact analysis identifies a number of specific equalities risks and proposes mitigation for these, including:

- No specific provision in the new programme for sports provision for blind and partially sighted young people – Discuss with recommended providers to address needs of this group
- No specific in provision focused on community safety for residents with a disability – Discuss with recommended providers ways to address this and also role of Disabled Peoples Network
- The lack of focus on educational attainment for boys, despite data showing boys under-achieve – Discuss with recommended providers how this group will be supported
- No specific provision focused on community safety for LGBTQIA+ residents - Discuss with recommended providers ways to address this and also role of LGBT Community Forum
- No specific provision for young carers – Discuss with service current provision and if gap commission specific provision

4.7 Robust action planning has been undertaken to minimise the above risks and the MCGP Grants Programme has been rated as amber with guidance to **proceed pending agreement of mitigating action**. Further detail can be found in the equality *impact analysis and the action planning* section of this document in Appendix A.

4.8 The draft Equality Impact Analysis was reviewed by Diversity McKenzie an equality and diversity specialist organisation. Feedback from them have been incorporated into the Equality Impact Analysis and they have provided a quality assurance validation.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Best Value Implications

5.1 The design and implementation of the MCGP had at the core delivering best value from the Council's grants programme. This included delivering different methods to engage local VCS organisations in the design phase and in the bidding stage. Learning from the Local Community Fund grants process were incorporated throughout the programme. Designing of the programme and drafting recommendations on projects to fund considered how the selected projects would provide best value for the Council including how they meet the

corporate priorities, provide good geographical coverage, meet needs of different equalities groups. The project assessment process also included a section on value for money.

Risk Management

- 5.2 Existing LCF projects that are not recommended for funding under MCGP will have an impact on users and the organisation. This will be mitigated through the mobilisation and discussion with existing groups to ensure users are referred to new provision and groups are supported by the Council and Tower Hamlets CVS. The grants were assessed by officers and an independent audit was carried out of this process as set out in paragraphs 3.5 and 3.6. The management of risk in the assessment process has included the development of clear and transparent assessment criteria and which were published as part of the MCGP prospectus and participation in the training of assessors and moderators. The moderation process provided a further assurance that scoring was fair where there was failure or significant differences between assessors.

Crime Reduction

- 5.3 There are no specific crime reduction implications arising from this report. However, the MCGP has a scheme which includes priorities on:
- Tackling drug and alcohol issues
 - Promoting safer communities
 - Supporting ex-offenders
 - Gang intervention and prevention
 - Victim support
 - Violence against women and girls

The projects recommended for funding under this scheme are listed under Theme 5B in Appendix D.

Safeguarding.

- 5.4 There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report. However, as part of the organisational and project assessment a focus was on how services will be delivered to ensure children and vulnerable adults are protected. As part of the mobilisation of the grants contracts any issues around safeguarding will be addressed before contracts are signed with the providers. All projects will be monitored on a quarterly and any issues around safeguarding will be picked up through monitoring unless more urgent actions are required.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The Mayor's Community Grant Programme (MCGP) approved by Cabinet in March 23 replaces the current Local Community Fund which ends on 31st October 2023.

- 6.2 The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) includes the cost of the grants programme and £982k funding from the Public Health grant for services that are eligible for the use of the Public Health grant.
- 6.3 The new programme is funded through the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) of £2.5m including £982k from Public Health and £17k from general fund. The funding through NCIL will result in a saving to the general fund that will be included in the revised MTFS.
- 6.4 An in year saving of c£1.7m general fund budget for 23/24 is also achievable from the NCIL funding across the Council's grant programmes.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to make the grants referred to in this report.
- 7.2 The Council has the legal duty to obtain Best Value in terms of economy efficiency and effectiveness when deciding how to deliver its functions. The Council has a wide discretion to determine how Best Value might be achieved and in particular what might make the delivery of a function particularly effective. The Council determined what, in the Council's view, would make a bid effective prior to any bids being received by stating the criteria against which subsequent bids will be assessed in the prospectus. The evaluation panels application of the criteria to the bids demonstrates compliance with the Best Value legal duty.
- 7.3 The Council has also evaluated the level of funding requested against specific outcomes and reached a funding proposal in respect of each application. This demonstrates that the Council has complied with the economic strand of the Best Value duty.
- 7.4 Provision of funding will be subject to agreeing a written funding agreement. The funding agreement gives the Council the ability to withdraw and or reduce funding in the event that targets are not subsequently met or the funding is used for purposes outside the terms of the agreement. Monitoring of compliance with the agreement will ensure compliance with the effectiveness strand of the Best Value duty.
- 7.5 The Council has a duty to treat all applicants fairly. The Council used the prospectus to detail the Council's priorities in respect of utilisation of the grant funding. Applicants saw the priorities prior to submitting their applications and therefore all applicants were on an equal footing when designing their schemes. The Council evaluators then applied the same criteria to the evaluation of each application which gave applicants and equivalent opportunity to gain funding.
- 7.6 The Council's new grants process was designed in conjunction with leading legal opinion to get assurance of the position. The results have also been audited by an external organisation to provide further assurance.

- 7.7 The grants that may be provided under this process will be subsidies for the purposes of the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Most of the grants given under this process will not exceed the de minimis “minimal financial assistance” criteria of £315,000 in a 3 year period (calculated in accordance with the rules under the act). The Council has considered the scheme in the light of the subsidy control considerations prior to any grant funding decision being made and determined that all the subsidies would in any case be lawful under the act.
- 7.8 The determination of the value of subsidy when considering the de minimis rule should also take into account the value of any state aid given within the same period. There is some overlap between the proposed organisations under this grant scheme and that previously. However, given the nature and variety of previous grants, previous legal advice confirmed that such grants were not state aid under the previous directive as there was no cross-border interest.
- 7.9 Where funding may cease from previous programmes it may be that people who have a protected characteristic could be affected when compared with people who do not have that characteristic. However, the report demonstrates that strategies are in place to provide alternative and reasonable routes to support such people.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

[LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS](#)- Grants Policy & Outcomes Framework – Cabinet March 2023

Appendices

- Appendix A Equality Analysis
- Appendix B Training and Support
- Appendix C Assessment Process
- Appendix D Recommended Projects
- Appendix E Geographic Distribution of Proposed Projects
- Appendix F Subsidy Control Act Principles
- Appendix G Guiding Principles for use of NCIL

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Or state N/A

Equality Impact Analysis

Section 1: Introduction


Name of proposal
For the purpose of this document, 'proposal' refers to a policy, function, strategy or project
Mayor's Community Grants Programme
Service area and Directorate responsible
Strategy, Improvement and Transformation
Name of completing officer
Anna Murphy, Strategy and Policy Officer External Scrutiny – Mike Burnitt – Senior Partner McKenzie LLP (reviewer)
Approved by (Corporate Director / Divisional Director/ Head of Service)
Robin Beattie (Interim Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation)
Date of approval
05/09/2023



Conclusion – To be completed at the end of the Equality Impact Analysis process

This summary will provide an update on the findings of the EIA and what the outcome is. *For example, based on the findings of the EIA, the proposal was rejected as the negative impact on a particular group was disproportionate and the appropriate actions cannot be undertaken to mitigate risk. Or, based on the EIA, the proposal was amended, and alternative steps taken.*

The focus of this is to analyse the impacts of the proposal on residents, service users and the wider community that are likely to be affected by the proposal. If the proposed change also has an impact on staff, the committee covering report should provide an overview of the likely equality impact for staff, residents and service users and the range of mitigating measures proposed.

Conclusion	Current decision rating (see Appendix A)
<p>The Mayors Community Grants Programme has been designed to promote equality in Tower Hamlets. It was designed using the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>The new programme will have wide ranging positive impacts, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advancing Equality of opportunity through the reduction of targeted inequalities, for example female employment rates and health & wellbeing ○ Fostering good relations between groups through a focus on community cohesion, cultural events and education ○ Reducing discrimination by supporting projects from across the community and more specific interventions for 	<p>Amber</p> 

example advice and support to educate residents on legal rights.

Funded projects have a significant range of positive impacts for residents with protected characteristics, including::

- Age
- Disability
- Sex
- LGBTQIA+
- Religion (through provision focused on hate crime)
- Race
- Sexual orientation
- Socio-economic status
- Parents /carers

These projects were designed and funded by using evidence and data to respond to key need in the borough.

Equalities considerations have been built into the grant application process and award criteria to ensure that:

- Prospective organisations had comprehensive Equality and Diversity Policies for i. Recruitment, ii. Planning and provision of services, and iii. Overall management of the organisation
- Any proposed project would promote community cohesion and address inequalities impacting those with 'Protected Characteristics' living in the Borough
- Organisations could evidence good knowledge of the local neighbourhoods, needs, services and demographic
- Equalities considerations, geographic spread of projects and project scores have been balanced in order to make robust funding recommendations

In comparing the recommended projects to the previous Local Community Grant funding and the identified need in the borough this EQIA identifies a number of specific equalities risks and proposes mitigation for these, including:

- No specific provision in the new programme for sports provision for blind and partially sighted young people
- No specific in provision focused on community safety for residents with a disability
- The lack of focus on educational attainment for boys, despite data showing boys under-achieve
- No specific provision focused on community safety for LGBTQIA+ residents

<p>- No specific provision for young carers</p> <p>Robust action planning has been undertaken to minimise the above risks and the MCGP Grants Programme has been rated as amber with guidance to proceed pending agreement of mitigating action.</p> <p>Further detail can be found in the <i>Impact analysis and the action planning</i> section of this document.</p>	
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The Equality Act 2010 places a ‘General Duty’ on all public bodies to have ‘due regard’ to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between those with ‘protected characteristics’ and those without them.
- Foster good relations between those with ‘protected characteristics’ and those without them.

This Equality Impact Analysis provides evidence for meeting the Council’s commitment to Equality and the responsibilities outlined above. For more information about the Council’s commitment to Equality, please visit the Council’s [website](#).

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Section 2: General information about the proposal

Describe the proposal including the relevance of proposal to the general equality duties and protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010

2.1 Introduction and Overview:

The *Mayor's Community Grants Programme (MCGP)* has a vision to support and invest in Tower Hamlets voluntary and community sector to enable it to improve outcomes for residents. The programme has specific aims of improving outcomes for Tower Hamlets residents.

The programme has five agreed overarching principles:

- 1: Support 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.
- 2: Support services and activities that are **inclusive, promote cohesion** and are designed and delivered with residents.
- 3: Provide long-term funding to *Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)* organisations in return for efficient and effective services.
- 4: Achieve value for money.
- 5: Improve partnership working between local VCS organisations.

In developing this programme, the Council engaged extensively with local VCS organisations and partners to ensure that the scheme addresses some of the key challenges faced by local people. The grants programme is also designed to replace the previous *Local Community Fund (LCF)* programme. This assessment will consider the potential service delivery gaps by comparing the previous programmes with the new and will detail potential mitigations that may be implemented to address such gaps.

2.2 Funding Structure:

The programme will provide £3.5 million of annual funding for the VCS over the next three and five months between November 2023 and March 2027.

In addition to this programme, a separate *Small Grants Programme* will also be launched in December 2023 providing an additional £800,000 per annum over five separate themes and the Emergency Fund, which will provide £100,000 per year for voluntary and community sector organisations in financial difficulties or facing an emergency.

2.3 Programme Themes:

The MCGP funding has been allocated across five themes (see below) aligned to the overall [Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#).

In April 2023, local VCS organisations were invited to apply for funding to deliver local programmes, initiatives and projects under the following five key themes:

- *Tackling the Cost-of-Living Crisis*
- *Accelerating Education*
- *Boosting Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills*
- *Investing in Public Services*
- *Empowering Communities and Fighting Crime*

The LBTHC application process and award criteria can be viewed by clicking this link [MCGP Prospectus](#).

Relevant extracts from this document are included within the following section of this EqlA for reference purposes.

2.4 Equality Considerations – Award Criteria:

As part of the application process, applicants were required to provide demonstrable evidence of a comprehensive *Equal Opportunities / Equality and Diversity* policy and additionally evidence that this policy was actively used in respect of:

- Recruitment
- Planning and provision of services
- In the overall management of their organisation.

Applicants were also required to indicate (as part of the specified *Community Cohesion / Equality and Diversity* award criteria) how their proposed service would **aim to promote community cohesion and address inequalities** impacting those with 'Protected Characteristics' living in the Borough.

Only VCS organisations who are registered in Tower Hamlets, are based in the borough, or have delivered services in the borough for at least the last two years were eligible to apply.

In the project assessment applicants were required to provide evidence of (as part of the *Demonstrates Good Local Connections* award criteria) good knowledge of the local neighbourhoods, needs, services and demographics. This requirement included:

- Previous experience of delivering services to Tower Hamlets residents.
- Evidence of operating from a local base or location.
- Working links and connections with other organisations within Tower Hamlets or potential partnership arrangements (from all sectors).

The Prospectus for the MCGP was made available on the Council’s website, and was promoted through social media and a press release ensuring that information was publicly available. This included how to apply, assessment criteria used and an email address for FAQ’s. Information sessions were held to further disseminate key information. All related web material was also accessibility checked.

Extensive engagement and consultation were undertaken in the development of the grant’s programme. With 309 individuals and 144 VCS organisations participating in events at different times, various location across the borough, and using different methods of engagement. These included an on-line and two hybrid (physical and on-line) workshops, a weekend and evening events especially for organisations run by volunteers. Further, all venues were checked for accessibility.

Finally, to support organisations to be able to develop high quality applications and maximise applications from a diverse range of organisations and particularly those which are smaller or have less in-house bid writing skills, training and support was offered through the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services through training sessions, group support, 1-1 sessions and provisions of written resources.

2.5 Summary: Potential Positive Equality Impacts – Programme Themes:

The equality impacts the programme is aiming to achieve were detailed within the grant prospectus. A summary of the key potential positive equality considerations are summarised below:

Programme Theme:	Key Positive Equality Considerations: (Extracted from the stated MCGP programme outcomes.)
Tackling the Cost of Living Crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of information, advice and support for vulnerable, marginalised and hard to reach groups – including Disabled people. • Improved resident health and enhanced wellbeing. • Support for residents in crisis.

Accelerating Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting community language provision. • Improving support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs. • Increasing opportunities for young people in the borough to progress within education. • Enabling community based support to help children and young people recover from schooling lost during the <i>Covid 19</i> lockdowns. • Tackling Digital Exclusion.
Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of jobs and training for local residents including targeted support for young / older people, Black Asian and Muti Ethnic communities and people with Disabilities.
Investing in Public Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the physical and mental wellbeing of older residents. • Promoting health and wellbeing for all residents by tackling inequality and reducing social isolation.
Empower Communities and Fight Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce inequalities faced by groups with different 'Protected Characteristics'. • Protection of children / young people and combating domestic violence.

2.6 Summary: Potential Adverse Equality Related Impacts and Mitigation:

The new grants programme is responsible for the distribution of a large sum of money to the voluntary and community sector with many explicit equality related aims. As part of this assessment, we have also identified a number of high-level risks of potential adverse equality implications. These are:

- Replacing the LCF scheme with the MCGP may result in gaps in service provision which could have an adverse impact on those with a shared 'Protected Characteristic'. The Council will aim to identify these gaps as part of this assessment and identify potential mitigating actions.
- The MCGP does not lead to the effective targeting of interventions which support all groups and in particular, those facing the most acute challenges or discrimination. This again may be mitigated through final design of the grants programme ensuring all sections of the community are supported.

- The funded projects may not necessarily appear to meet our responsibility to ‘Foster Good Relations’ between different groups if we are for example, perceived to favour particular VCS organisations or certain community groups.

However, The Council recognises the importance of implementing *Positive Action* initiatives to reach certain sections of society. Whilst there is a risk that this could be perceived as being discriminatory, the Council can justify focusing on certain particular disadvantaged communities as part of this programme.

2.7 Grant Programme Themes and Budgets:

The following themes, schemes and budgets were approved by Cabinet in March 23.

Schemes	Priorities	Indicative Annual Budget
Theme: Tackling the Cost-of-living crisis		
1A Advice and Information	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 maximisation	
	Support for residents in crisis needing immediate support	
Theme: Accelerate Education		
2A – Education attainment and development of children and young people	Community-based study support	£700,000
	Community language development	
	Community-based provision for children with Special Educational Needs	
	Extracurricular activities and after school provision	
2B – Lifelong Learning	Skills for life and lifelong learning	£700,000
	English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)	
	Digital Inclusion	
Theme: Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills		
3A - Employment and skills	Supporting people not in education, employment or training (NEET)	£650,000

opportunities for socially excluded residents	Targeted youth outreach	
	Access to Youth Provision	
	Enterprise and innovation, particularly the greening of the borough	
	Job brokerage	
3B Sports and local culture and heritage	Local culture and heritage	
	Sports activity	
Theme: Invest in public services		
4A – Physical and mental wellbeing of older people	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	
4B - Physical and mental health of residents	Promoting health and wellbeing through tackling inequality	
Theme: Empower communities and fight crime		
5A – Inequalities experienced by people and communities reflecting different equality groups and social economic backgrounds	Addressing inequality for Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities and women	£450,000
	Creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together	
5B – Community safety	Tackling drug and alcohol issues	
	Promoting safer communities	
	Supporting ex-offenders	
	Gang intervention and prevention	
	Victim support	
	Violence against women and girls	
		Total £3,500,000

2.8 Tower Hamlets Equality Objectives

The Council's Strategic Plan includes five Equality Objectives, in line with our duty under the *Public Sector Equality Duty*. The Objectives for 2023-27 are:

1. Work with communities across the borough to bring people together from different backgrounds and promote understanding.
2. Uphold and protect Equality and Diversity in all circumstances.
3. Address inequalities particularly those faced by Bangladeshi and Somali communities.
4. Improve safety and opportunities for women.

5. Ensure our workforce reflects the community.

These Equality Objectives are based on both the analysis of data and the lived experiences / key inequalities experienced by groups of residents who share one or more 'Protected Characteristic'. For example, women, Bangladeshi and Somali residents.

The MCGP ultimately aims to address objectives 1-4 above alongside delivering priorities aligned to our Strategic Plan.

Section 3: Evidence (consideration of data and information)

What evidence do we have which may help us think about the impacts or likely impacts on residents, service users and wider community?

3.1 Summary :High Level Needs Assessment

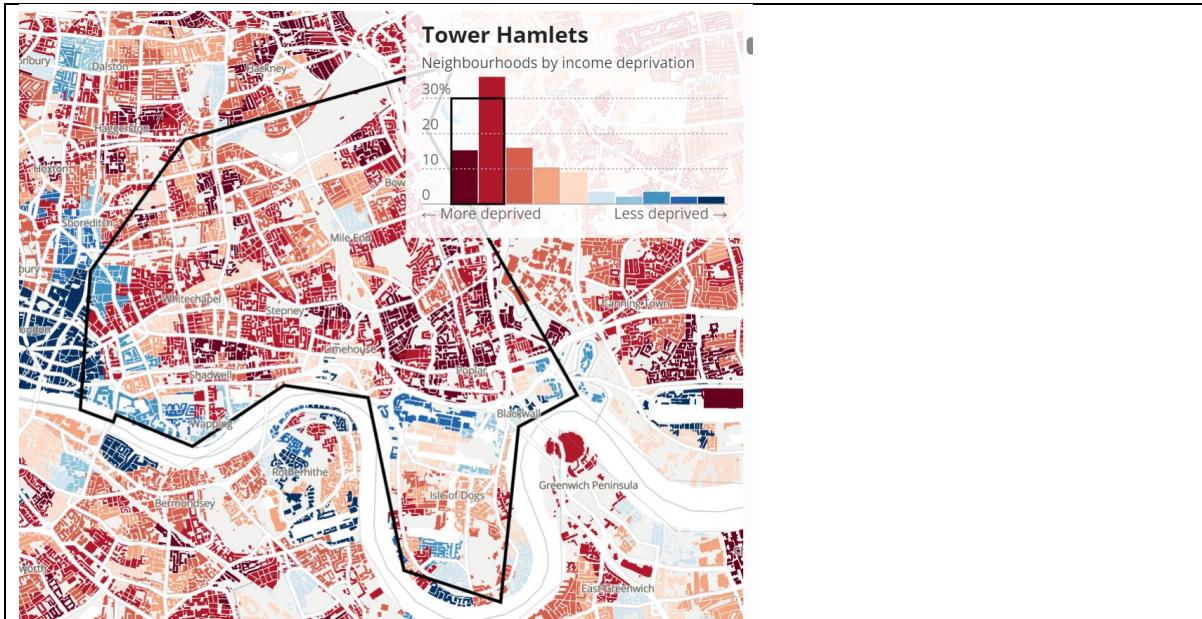
The Council's strategic documents highlight key challenges and equalities considerations for Tower Hamlets, as does the [Equality Policy](#) which contains data profiling some of the key issues facing those with a 'Protected Characteristic' in the borough. The development of the MCGP also included a high level priority needs assessment which can be found [here](#). This assessment will use both 'Protected Characteristics' and a geographical overview to consider the relationship between the recommended projects and the actual needs within the Borough.

Tower Hamlets is a borough of contrasts. High levels of inequality and extremes of both poverty and affluence co-exist within the area. The Borough has higher-than-average proportions of senior managers and higher than average long term unemployment. 20.9% of people living in the Borough are in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations compared to London (17.6%) and England & Wales (13.1%). Conversely, 13.7% of borough residents have never worked or are long term unemployed compared to 10.3% and 8.5% for London & England and Wales respectively)

3.2 Geographical assessment

There is some correlation between inequality and geography in Tower Hamlets, the index of multiple deprivation shows that certain neighbourhoods have higher levels of deprivation than others. Tower Hamlets has a relatively low [Moran 1](#), this means relative to other London Boroughs, deprivation is less spatially clustered. **The majority of neighbourhoods in [Tower Hamlets](#) fall into the two most income deprived deciles.** Therefore, it is important for projects to have a wide spread across the majority of the borough.

There may be some groups of people requiring less focus in the wealthier neighbourhoods (highlighted in blue overleaf) adjoining the City of London, around Wapping and just to the North of Isle of the Dogs. Certain challenges or inequalities may not be aligned to this geography, for example older people in poverty may be distributed differently across the borough.



The above aligns to wards as below:

Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD2019)

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

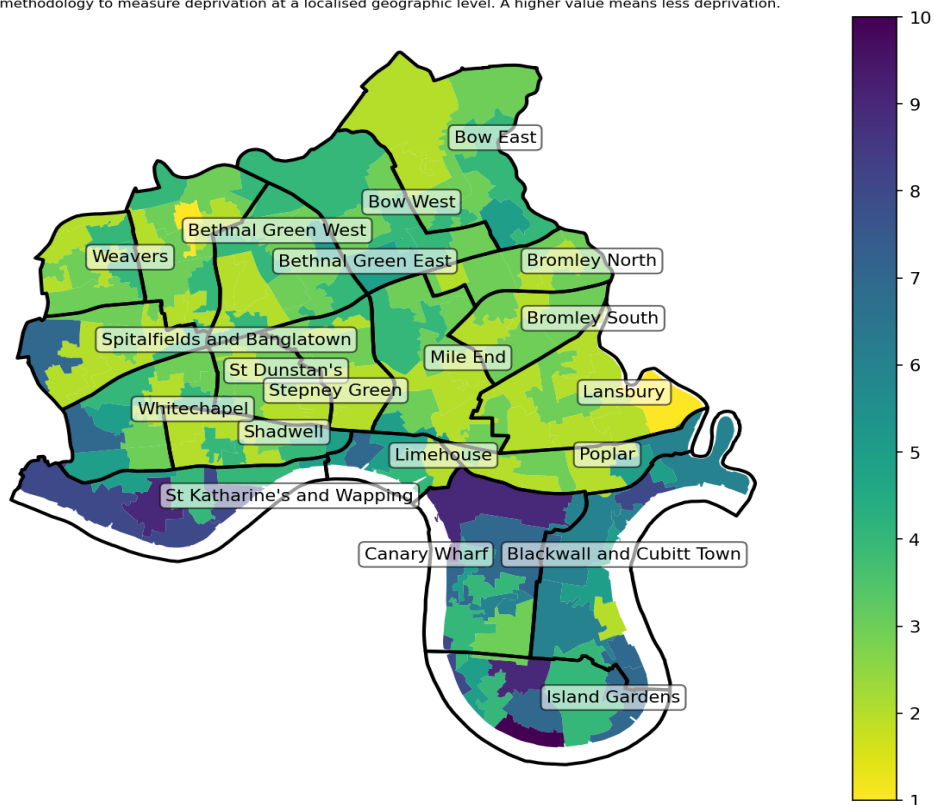


Figure 1: Indices of Multiple deprivation (IMD2019), ONS 2019

3.3 Delivery of Projects Evenly Across the Borough

The ultimate delivery of fewer projects in the four southern-most wards in the borough may therefore be justified, although there are neighbourhoods within these areas which still show high levels of deprivation and are more in need of support.

3.4 Protected characteristics

Data also provides an overview of the specific challenges facing those who share a protected characteristic in Tower Hamlets. The next section of this document will provide a brief overview. The complementing data can be found in Appendix A.

Age

Tower Hamlets has a young population with the lowest proportion of older people in the country (less than 6% are over 65). These groups are disproportionately living in poverty. 44% of older people live in income deprived households - higher than the average in England. 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 nationally³.

Disability

A quarter of households have at least one disabled resident (25.7%) and 12.9% of all Borough residents have a disability. Residents with a disability are much more likely to have no qualifications than those without a disability. Similarly, residents with a disability are much less likely, for example, to have a level 4 qualification. Disabled residents were also slightly less likely to be in managerial / professional roles and more likely to be in all other types of job. Disabled people are particularly overrepresented in the caring and leisure sectors and other service occupations.

There is a correlation between age and disability. The proportion of residents with a disability increases with every age group. For all age groups above 15 years old, women were more likely than men to have a disability. Certain multi-ethnic groups have higher levels of disability than White British residents, 26.8% of Gypsy and Irish traveller residents report a disability and 22.7% of Black Caribbean residents, compared to White Irish and British residents both having a reported rate of 18.4%.

Sex

Women are more likely than males to have no qualifications and less likely to have level 4 qualifications. Females in London were 1.6% more likely than males to have level 4 qualifications. Females in employment were slightly more likely than males to be working in managerial / professional roles (64.0% compared with 61.7%). Females were much more likely to be working in administrative and secretarial occupations and in caring, leisure and other service occupations.

By contrast, males were much more likely to be working in skilled trades and in process, plant and machine occupations.

Religion or Philosophical Belief

According to the latest 2021 census, the largest religious group within Tower Hamlets is Muslims, accounting for 40% of the Brough population. Across England as a country, this figure is just 2%. Tower Hamlets also has the third largest population of Muslims in England (behind Birmingham and Bradford).

Muslim residents were the least likely to be in employment (both males and females) with female Muslims, by far, being the least likely residents to be in employment. Muslims were also under-represented in managerial / professional jobs at only (33.7%) compared to 62.7% overall. Buddhist males had the highest rate of male unemployment at 8.1% followed by Muslim males at 7.0%. Residents who identified their religion as Muslim are also the most likely group of people overall to have ill health. Older Muslims (aged 50+) were much more likely than any other religious group of that age to have ill health.

Race

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%). Tower Hamlets also has the third highest proportion of Chinese residents.

Data from the 2021 Census 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 8th highest proportion in England. Further analysis of this community will be undertaken with release of more data.

There are significant variations in the employment rate between ethnic groups within Tower Hamlets - particularly for females. The male group with the lowest employment rate is Bangladeshi at 52.9%, the lowest female group was also Bangladeshi at 28.6%. Seven female ethnic groups had an employment rate below 50% while no male ethnic groups did.

Males were more likely than females to be unemployed (economically active or actively seeking work) for most, but not all ethnic groups. Females from 'Other White' ethnic backgrounds, Roma, Pakistani and Indian backgrounds were all more likely than males of the same ethnic group to be unemployed.

Households reference persons from a *Black Caribbean, Black African or Black Other* background were by far, the least likely to own their own home or a share in their own home. They were also the most likely to be renting through the Council or a social landlord. The next lowest level of home ownership was among Household Reference persons from *Other Ethnic* groups, followed by those from an Asian ethnic group.

There is a very significant variation in the level of overcrowding based on the ethnicity of a household. This ranged from 4.9% for households where the household reference person was *White British* to 30.8% where the household reference person was *Asian*. Households in which the household reference person was *Black African, Black Caribbean, or Black Other* were also above the borough average for overcrowding and significantly above the proportion for households where the household reference person were from White backgrounds.

The group that was most likely to be renting privately were from a *White Other* background (including Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma). This was also the group that by far the least likely to be in a social rented tenure.

The proportion of residents who are not in good health varies somewhat across ethnic group. It is particularly low amongst the *White Other* group and is highest amongst the *White British* group. However, when examined by age, it can be seen that the Asian ethnic group has substantially higher levels of poor health amongst those aged 50 and above than any other ethnic group.

Sexual Orientation

Tower Hamlets has a higher proportion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or 'Other Sexual Orientations' at 7.2% compared to 4.2% and 3.1% for London and England & Wales.

Socio-Economic

Tower Hamlets has become significantly less deprived in recent years. Between 2015 and 2019 it moved from being 10th to 50th on the *Indices of Multiple Deprivation*. However, 60% of the borough is still within the 30% of the most deprived parts of the UK.

Deprivation among children and older people is much higher than deprivation as a whole. As with other parts of the country, 'in-work poverty' appears to be an increasing issue with a high proportion of means-tested financial support now issued to people in work.

The *Covid-19* pandemic has also had a significant impact on the job market in Tower Hamlets, which may have a long term impact on the extent and nature of poverty and deprivation within the borough.

There is a direct correlation between *Race* and *Socio-Economic* challenges in Tower Hamlets. The income inequality previously referenced appears to disproportionately effects certain minority racial groups.

Overall, 62.7% of residents were in managerial / professional roles but this was lower for Black, Caribbean / African / Other residents, 46.6% and Asian residents, 48.8%. It was highest among White Irish, 83.6%, White British, 73.7% and White other residents, 71%. Residents from *Black African*, *Black Caribbean* and *Black Other* backgrounds were more likely to working in elementary occupations and caring, leisure / other service occupations than other broad ethnic groups. Residents from Asian backgrounds were more likely to be working in sales and customer service occupations, administrative and secretarial occupations and process, plant and machine occupations.

Parents/ Carers

In the UK in general, poverty is particularly high within families where there are adults being cared for, with more than one-third living in poverty. The inability to work is the key driver for much poverty amongst carers. In 2017/18, some 36% of working-age carers were not in work, compared with 23% of non-carers¹²

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

As previously stated, census 2021 figures show Tower Hamlets as being among the top ten local authorities for people aged over 16 identifying as LGBT+, at 7.2pc. With:

- 4% of those aged 16+ identifying as gay or lesbian
- 2.5% identifying as bisexual
- 0.7% identifying as having another sexual orientation

Furthermore, 1% of residents had a gender identity that was different to their sex registered at birth. This was the same proportion as London but twice the proportion in England and Wales (0.5%).

Further Information

The MCGP prospectus included a range of strategies and data that are relevant to the grant's themes.

Statistics

- [Census 2021 data](#)
- [Residents Survey](#)
- [Joint strategic needs analysis](#)
- [Borough profile](#)
- [Ward profile](#)

- [Income, poverty and welfare](#)
- [Education](#)
- [Economy, business and labour market](#)
- [Health and social care](#)
- [Health and Wellbeing Board – Annual Report](#)

Strategies

- [Strategic Plan 2022-2026](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Adult Mental Health Strategy](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Sport and Physical Activity Strategy](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Children and Young People's Strategy](#)
- [Tower Hamlets SEND Strategy](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Growth and Economic Development Plan](#)
- [Community Safety Partnership Plan](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Cohesion Plan](#)

3.4 Programme Awards - Analysis of Impact

Summary of Projects recommended for grant award

Overall, a total of 308 bids were received. Following assessment 110 have been recommended to be funded. The organisations recommended for funding fall in the following categories:

- 63 large organisations – 58 %
- 17 medium organisations – 16%
- 28 small organisations - 26%

This compares to the previous *Local Community Fund* (LCF) funding where a total of 50 projects were funded:

- 40 delivered by Large (£250k+) organisations – 80%
- 7 delivered by Medium (£150k-£250k) organisations = 14%
- 3 delivered by Small (less than £150k) organisations – 6%

This shows that the Council has succeeded in achieving its principle of supporting a wider range of services and groups with smaller and medium size organisations making up 42% of those recommended for funding for MCGP compared to 20% in the LCF programme.

Previous LCF Funding

In July 2019, the council agreed a programme of LCF funding for 39 voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations delivering 50 projects from 1 October 2019 to March 2023.

In March 2022 the council extended the funding until September 2023 for the programme's remaining 49 projects, with one project having closed its service in January 2022 after a review of the provider's wider services¹. The LCF programme was further extended until 31st October 2023 to allow sufficient time to complete work on the replacement MCGP. Further details of the LCF can be found [here](#).

The projects previously funded by the LCF programme were across five themes:

- Inclusion, health and wellbeing
- Digital inclusion and awareness
- Advice and information
- Employment and skills
- Community safety

To understand the risks to residents from protected characteristic groups from the ending of the LCF funding and replacement with MCGP, it is important to understand the key aims of LCF projects and the 'Protected Characteristic' groups that were targeted. A detail overview can be found in [Appendix B](#).

3.5 MCGP Awarded Projects - Breakdown by Theme:

The assessment will now provide an overview of the projects recommended to be funded through the MCGP. Some of the themes make reference to specific protected characteristics or geographical areas.

Theme 1, Tackling Cost of Living Crisis, Scheme 1 – Advice, information and crisis support:

Priority: Information, advice and support on legal rights, immigration, welfare benefits, housing, employment, income and crisis support. **Targeted at vulnerable and marginalised groups including disabled people, migrants and hard-to-reach groups.**

Outcomes: For residents: Increased access to social welfare, improved personal finance, budgeting and reduced debt, increase in skills and capability, better health and housing, improved quality of advice service in the borough.

Analysis of Recommended Projects: Five projects have been recommended for funding under this scheme – the analysis below considers the geographic, thematic and 'Protected Characteristic' 'reach' for these five projects.

The cost-of-living theme aligns to a key equalities issue as Tower Hamlets has a statistical disproportionate wealth inequality.

Protected Characteristic and Geographical Area:

Four of the five recommended projects will operate borough-wide. With one operating in the southwest of the borough stretching from Whitechapel to Poplar and covering several neighbourhoods in the most deprived 20% as per the IMD map shown on page 13 of this document.

Three new projects focus on residents generally with two serving the borough, so the recommended projects offer provision for all residents to access advice services.

Another project provides nutritious meals to vulnerable and marginalised residents boroughwide.

Theme 1, Tackling Cost of Living Crisis, Scheme 1 – Advice, information and crisis support (continued):

Age and Race: Only one project explicitly targets a protected characteristic group focused on Chinese and Vietnamese older people.

The three other projects are targeted at residents generally. Once projects are commenced, funded organisations will collect equalities monitoring data to ensure that the services are being accessed proportionally by individuals across the borough. For example, Muslim Black, Asian and Multiethnic women who are much less likely to be in work are also likely to be accessing certain services in higher numbers.

Within the large consortium providing resident advice, there are organisations specifically focused on supporting people with ‘Protected Characteristics’ for example, Disability and certain Ethnicities.

This is consistent with the previous LCF. Once again, Equalities monitoring / beneficiary feedback should be used to ensure there are no specific barriers to disabled people accessing the general services.

Theme 2, Accelerate Education, Scheme 2A – Educational Attainment and Development of Children and Young People (CYP).

Priority: Community-based study support, language development, provision for children with Special Educational Needs and wide access to extra-curricular activities.

Outcomes: CYP have improved educational attainment, improved health and well-being, increased leadership skills, confidence and aspiration, improved access to youth services, are enabled to secure good jobs and reduce ASB, radicalisation and substance misuse.

Analysis of Recommended Projects: Seventeen projects have been recommended for funding under this theme, providing arts, community languages and personal development for CYP.

Protected characteristic and Geographical Area

Age, Disability, Gender and Race:

Eight of the projects target children and young people generally, one operates boroughwide. One focuses on families and babies providing toy libraries & sessions for pre-schoolers.

Five projects target multi-ethnic children and young people – two specifically referencing Bangladeshi groups and two Somali, one specifically for Somali and other families with SEND.

The projects aimed at supporting Somali CYP operate boroughwide.

Of the two focused on Bangladeshi and other multi-ethnic groups, one operates boroughwide and one serves only St Katherine's and Wapping.

One proposed project focuses on girls and young women. These projects both operate boroughwide and offer music provision to empower children and bridge educational gaps and another offering a programme of activities to stimulate children and create peer support networks.

Two other projects are focused specially on disability – aiming to support children and young people with special educational needs. These projects both operate boroughwide.

Theme 2, Accelerate Education, Scheme 2B – Lifelong Learning

Priority: Skills for life and lifelong learning, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Digital Inclusion.

Outcomes: Reduce digital exclusion amongst residents from Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities, older people, low-income families and those with a disability. Improve the confidence of residents, building resilience and self-esteem, developing relationships and aspirations. Residents are able to learn in their first language to improve their overall learning outcomes.

Needs Analysis: Tower Hamlets has a significant gender employment gap.

Analysis of Recommended Projects:

Thirteen projects have been recommended for funding against this priority, two focus on residents generally with one supporting adults, all three of these projects operate boroughwide.

Age: One project focuses on improving digital skills for older people and operates boroughwide.

Disability: One project focuses on adult learning for those with a learning disability. One project focuses on learning for those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Both projects operate boroughwide.

Race: Six projects focus on multi-ethnic groups, two on Black, Asian and multiethnic women, one on Bangladeshi women, one on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities, one on migrants and one on both Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities and migrants.

Sex: As mentioned in the above section on Race, three projects focus specifically on women, two on Black Asian and Multi-Ethnic women with one on Bangladeshi women. There is no specific provision for women who are not multi-ethnic, monitoring data should be used to ensure there are no barriers to women accessing the general services.

High level analysis – we have one project focused on digital inclusion skills for residents operating boroughwide and one project focused on ESOL (*English for Speakers of Other Languages*) targeting Black, Asian and multi-ethnic people operating boroughwide.

Theme 3, Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills – Scheme 3A – Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents:

Priority: Supporting people not in education, employment or training (NEET), Targeted youth outreach and youth provision, promoting enterprise and innovation, particularly the greening of the borough, Job brokerage by supporting people into work.

Outcomes: Increased employment and progression especially for groups with low employment levels including Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities, disabled people, women, and young people – including by addressing barriers. Enabling

residents to benefit from cultural and sporting opportunities that improve their mental and physical well-being.

Analysis of Recommended Projects:

Thirteen projects have been recommended for funding under this theme, all projects are focused on increasing employment for different groups in the borough. With the ultimate aim of reducing the income inequality highlighted in a previous section of this document.

Age: One project targets older people aged 50+, five projects focus on young people one of these five specifically on NEET young people, one on Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic YP. Of these age-related projects four operate borough wide. One focused on young people generally operates specifically in Lansbury and Poplar.

Disability: Two projects specifically target groups of residents who may have a disability, one focused on disability and mental health, and one on mental health. Both are boroughwide in scope.

Race: Seven projects explicitly focus on *Race*, supporting Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic residents of Somali and African/Caribbean descent, Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic women and Migrants, refugees and migrants, Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities (x3) and Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic Young people.

Sex: Three projects focus on all women, and a further project focuses on unemployed women. One final project focuses on Black, Asian and Multiethnic women. Projects focused on unemployed and Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic women operate boroughwide.

Socio-economic: One project focuses on supporting homeless people into work boroughwide.

Theme 3, Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills – Scheme 3B – Sports, Local Culture and Heritage

Priority: Promoting local culture and heritage, Promoting sports activity.

Outcome: Increased engagement in physical activities and sport, particularly by young girls, women and people from Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities - enabling residents to take part in arts and culture activities for the first time. The aim being to improve health outcomes - both physical and mental - and confidence through participation in physical activities, sport and cultural activities.

Analysis of recommended projects:

14 projects have been recommended for funding under this theme, focused on both culture and sports.

Culture:

Six recommended projects focus on culture.

One project focuses on film making and targets all residents, boroughwide. One project operates borough wide, and it aimed at “marginalised groups” teaching drama and writing skills.

Age:

Two projects focus on older and younger people – one targets a set area of Bethnal Green East and West and one operates boroughwide, both focus on access to the arts. One project focuses on young people, children and families (focusing on theatre and drama) and operates boroughwide.

Race: One project focuses on Somali arts culture and heritage it is aimed at families and operates boroughwide. One focuses on the Bangladeshi community and culture and also works boroughwide.

Sports: In total, eight recommended projects focus specifically on sport.

Gender:

- One project focuses on sports provision for women & girls and operates boroughwide.
- Another project operates boroughwide and focuses on increasing girls access to outdoor adventure.
- A further project targets Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic men with cycling address social exclusion, the same project targets taekwondo for girls in St Dunstan’s.

Age:

- Two sporting project’s focus on children – one operating boroughwide, teaching cricket, the other providing free supervised play for 5-13’s in Limehouse and Poplar.
- A further project promotes sport among young people and older people and again, operates boroughwide.
- Finally, two projects focus on improving youth wellbeing through sport - one operates across 11 wards and the other in Bromley South.

Disability:

- One project looks at sports participation for SEND adults boroughwide.

Race:

- One project focuses on boroughwide sports provision for Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic communities including specific focus on young women, women, young people and men over 45 – meeting cultural and religious needs.

Theme 4, Investing in Public Services – Scheme 4A – Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing of Older People

Priority:

Supporting older and vulnerable people, including luncheon clubs, meals delivery services and pensioner projects. Developing community activities aimed at tackling loneliness and inactive lifestyles.

Outcome:

Older people with improved physical and mental health outcomes, improved management of health conditions and making healthy choices, and increased physical activity. Older residents supported by neighbourhood initiatives feeling more connected to community and less socially isolated.

Analysis of recommended projects: In total, fifteen projects have been recommended to be funded under this theme.

Age: All projects recommended under this theme support older people. For example, one supports to reduce isolation through a boroughwide “activity buddy” scheme, one runs a programme of health and social activities boroughwide.

Race: One project focuses on Vietnamese and Chinese communities running a lunch club boroughwide, one focuses on the Bangladeshi community and operates a community-based day club in Shadwell, St Katherines and Wapping. One focuses on Bangladeshi women in "Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens, Lansbury, Limehouse, Poplar" with a further focused on Black, Asian and multi-ethnic women with disabilities in Bethnal Green East and West, Spitalfields and Banglatown, and Weavers. A further project focuses particularly but not exclusively on Somali residents running a senior club for residents boroughwide.

Gender: One project focuses on Bengali women in "Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens, Lansbury, Limehouse, Poplar" with a further focused on Black, Asian and multi-ethnic women with disabilities in Bethnal Green East and West, Spitalfields and Banglatown, and Weavers.

Theme 4, Investing in Public Services – Scheme 4B – Physical and Mental Health of Residents

Priority: Promoting health and well-being through tackling inequality.

Outcome: Residents with improved physical and mental health outcomes including improved management of health conditions and making health choices, socially excluded residents are supported by neighbourhood initiatives feeling more connected to community and less socially isolated. Reduced health inequalities.

Analysis of recommended projects: Fourteen projects have been recommended to be funded under this theme:

The Bromley-by-Bow centre supports residents generally in three wards of the borough but also particularly works with Black, Asian and multi-ethnic groups

Age: One project supports disadvantaged children in Spitalfields and Banglatown improving wellbeing and tackling food poverty by connecting children to nature. One supports younger people borough wide to prevent suicide, with its mental health focus this can also be seen to support those with a **disability**. One supports young women with mentoring in "Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens and Mile End". One project supports SEND young people with weekly sports and social activities.

Disability: One project dedicated to supporting the deaf community boroughwide improving their health and wellbeing. One provides dedicated mental health support to residents boroughwide. One to one counselling will also be offered for residents living with HIV who are at increased risk of poor mental health. One project supports SEND young people with weekly sports and social activities.

Theme 4, Investing in Public Services – Scheme 4B – Physical and Mental Health of Residents (continued)

Carers: One project supports unpaid carers boroughwide, building resilience through therapies and learning opportunities.

Gender:

- Providing disadvantaged women who are survivors of gender-based violence and may have complex needs with culturally competent counselling.
- Women's health matters will support women in 6 wards with fitness and nutrition activities

Race:

- One health living project is specifically targeted at Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic communities focusing on health advice for conditions commonly/ disproportionately impacting residents, operating borough wide.
- A more local project also mentions multi-ethnic groups alongside others, with sessions designed to improve health and connection across five wards

Religion / Belief: One project focuses on health & wellbeing targeted at Muslim women, operating boroughwide.

Sexual Orientation / Gender identity:

One project focuses on supporting LGBTQIA+ residents often with intersectional protected characteristics enhancing peer networks to reduce isolation and provide mental health crisis support.

Theme 5, Empower Communities and Fight Crime – Scheme 5A – Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality groups and Socio-economic Backgrounds

Priority: Addressing inequality for Black Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities and women, Creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to come together.

Outcome: Reduced inequalities for groups with protected characteristics and reduced structural racism. Increased opportunities for women and multiethnic groups, improved community cohesion incl. different ages. Protection of children and young people reduced domestic violence, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Analysis of recommended projects: Eight projects have been recommended to be funded under this theme

Age: Empowering communities targets different age groups older people, parents and children bringing them together to share culture and food across 7 wards.

Disability: Two projects work boroughwide in order to support people with a disability – one focused on mental health for Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic Communities to overcome barriers to accessing support. One “All-inclusive advice” focused on holistic advice.

Gender: Stay Safe Stay Smart focuses on girls and women in Shadwell St Katherine’s and Wapping and Whitechapel empowering them to make positive choices.

Race: Three projects focus on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities, two serving the whole borough. One recruiting 60% women to become charity trustees, supporting residents into leadership roles and ensuring diversity is reflected.

Theme 5, Empower Communities and Fight Crime – Scheme 5A – Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality groups and Socio-economic Backgrounds (continued)

Religion: Council of Mosques, empowerment project will focus on addressing racism and faith-based abuse targeting particularly but not exclusively the boroughs Muslim Community.

Theme 5, Empower Communities and Fight Crime – Scheme 5B – Community Safety

Priority: Promoting safer communities, through drug and alcohol interventions, victim support, gang intervention and prevention, supporting ex-offenders, victim support and tackling violence against women and girls.

Outcomes: Residents feel safer including the LGBTQIA+ Community and those with a disability, improved relationships, confidence and trust in the police especially for children, young people and women. Men and boys educated, aware and active against domestic violence. Safe spaces for women, children and young people. Reduction in crime, ASB and drug use. Ex-offenders have better opportunities. Residents actively engage with statutory services to identify and implement solutions to local problems.

Analysis of recommended projects: Seven projects have been recommended to be funded under this theme

The “Safer Parks Campaign” supports all residents across five wards to tackle key issues making residents unsafe in parks.

Age: Two projects engage with young people across the borough, one educating and mentoring school children to prevent them from being involved in crime. One focused on preventative and early intervention activities. A further project targets a specific group of young people, ex-offenders providing pathways to employment across the borough. A further project supports children and families who have experienced domestic violence and are staying in a refuge.

Gender: One project provides self-defence classes for women and girls across four wards. One project provides female sex workers with 121 support including advocacy and works boroughwide. Another provides boroughwide advice and support targeted at Somali and Multi-ethnic women who are affected by domestic abuse.

Race: Two projects focus on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic residents, one providing support for Somali and other multi-ethnic women affected by domestic abuse across the borough, and another running self-defence classes for multi-ethnic young people across five wards.

3.6 Overall Geographical Scope of Awards

58 projects operate boroughwide just under 53% of the total 110 projects, ensuring that residents across the borough can access projects funded under every theme:

Number of Boroughwide projects by theme as a **total** and broken down by (A & B):

- Theme 1 – **3**
- Theme 2 – **15**
- Theme 3 – **16**
- Theme 4 – **14**
- Theme 5 – **10**

Across all themes, the projects which do not operate boroughwide, operate in the wards shown below – one cross is marked for one project. This is the area served by the project not the area in which the project is based.

Ward	Theme 1	Theme 2 (A & B)	Theme 3 (A & B)	Theme 4 (A & B)	Theme 5 (A & B)	Total
Bethnal Green (Bethnal Green East)	X	XX		XXX	X	7
Blackwall & Cubitt Town		X	X	XX		4
Bow East		X		XX		3
Bow West		X		X	X	3
Bromley North		X		X	X	3
Bromley South		X	X	X	X	4
Canary Wharf		X		XX		3
Island Gardens		X	X	X		3
Lansbury		XX	XX	XX		6
Limehouse	X	XX	XXX	XX	XX	10
Mile End	X	XXXX	X	X	XX	9
Poplar	X	XXXX	XXXXX	XX	X	13
St Dunstan's	X	XXXXXXXX	XXXX	X	XX	14
St Katharine's & Wapping	XX	XXXX	X	XXXX	XXX	14
St Peters (Bethnal Green West)	X	XXXX	X	X	X	8
Shadwell	XX	XXXX	XX	XXXXX	XXXXX	18
Spitalfields & Banglatown	X	XXXX	X	XXX	X	10
Stepney Green	X	XXXXXXXX	XXX	XX	XXXX	16
Weavers	X	XXXX	XX	XX	X	10
Whitechapel	XX	XXXXXXXX	XX	XXXXX	XXXX	20

On top of boroughwide provision there is a good range of projects targeting specific areas of the borough. However, four areas may be slightly under-served based on IMD:

- Bow East
- Bow West
- Bromley North
- Bromley South

This risk is minimal as most projects operate boroughwide. However, provision for these areas will be considered through mobilisation and on-going monitoring of service delivery.

3.7 Key potential differences LCF v MCGP

Difference:

- Family mentoring to support early help for children and young people.
- Parenting course for parents struggling with children under 5, and a parenting course with lunch and activities for under 5s.

Mitigation:

This is partially met by the boroughwide toy, library, and play sessions for young children funded under scheme 2A and multi generation project n 5A. The Council is also launching family hubs in Tower Hamlets which will offer early help and support for parents and families by bringing together a network of services in one place. More information on Family Hubs can be found [here](#).

Difference:

- Mindfulness pain management programme targeting residents with chronic pain or illness
- A project co-producing support with people with lived experience of disability.

Mitigation:

This is partially met by boroughwide projects in this case, funded under theme 5A focused on holistic support and increasing access to services for residents with a Disability. A number of projects in theme 4 focus on wellbeing of older people and all residents.

Difference :

- Project enabling blind and partially sighted young people to participate in physical activities.

Mitigation:

The MCGP does provide a variety of different sports provision but does not provide services specifically targeted at blind or partially sighted young people. The recommended project in theme 4B focused on SEND and disabled young people can meet this.

Difference:

- Project training women to become e-safety champions for the community, sharing knowledge to benefit young people parents/ carers, and another building digital resilience of children and young people

Mitigation:

There are number of digital inclusion projects under theme 2B which focus on supporting women who are digitally excluded which will include safe use of internet.

Difference:

- Working with employers in Tower Hamlets through co-production to support companies to be excellent employers of disabled people

Mitigation:

Partially met through projects focused on supporting disabled people into employment.

Difference:

- Reducing barriers to employment for carers and single parents of Bangladeshi, Somali and multi-ethnic heritage with limited English.

Mitigation:

Funded projects under Scheme's 3A and 5A which focus on supporting women into employment have experience of working with single parents and carers.

Difference :

- Advice and guidance support for young carers

Mitigation:

Project funded under 4B building resilience and resourceful-ness for all unpaid carers. The Council's youth service provides a range of support to young carers [Young carers: support and advice \(towerhamlets.gov.uk\)](http://towerhamlets.gov.uk). Further work will be undertaken with service to understand if need for additional VCS provision.



TOWER HAMLETS

Section 4: Assessing the impacts on different groups and service delivery

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme One: – Tackling cost of living crisis				
Age (All age groups)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The pensioner poverty rate in Tower Hamlets (44%) is nearly double that of London (23%) and is currently the highest rate in England. The levels of child poverty in the Borough (32.5%) are also nearly double that of London (19%). A recent review (<i>Tower Hamlets Poverty review 2021</i>) reported that the borough had the highest levels, nationally of child poverty.</p> <p>One of the overarching aims of this service is to mitigate and reduce levels of poverty by supporting vulnerable residents and low-income households to access their rights, understand their obligations and maximise their incomes. Whilst this service is not specifically targeted at a specific age group, we conclude that on balance, residents of certain ages who are currently disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis will ultimately benefit from the delivery of this service in the Borough.</p> <p>For example under the LCF Theme 3 – Advice and Support 11% of beneficiaries were 65+. Compared to 5.6% of the population in the 2021 Census, demonstrating the impact an advice theme can have on pensioner poverty.</p>

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Two: – Accelerating Education:				
Age (All age groups)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The percentage of the Tower Hamlets population who have poor (or no) fluency in spoken English is eight per cent (around one in 12 residents) which is the second highest proportion nationally (after Newham at 9 per cent). This compares with just 4 per cent across London and 2 per cent in England. (Source ONS.)</p> <p>Whilst we do not have statistical data to indicate the age profile of residents who do not speak English, the proposed <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages</i> programme is likely to benefit residents of all ages across the borough.</p> <p>Age UK analysis indicates there are still 2.7 million people in the UK aged 65+ who have not used the internet in the last three months – most of who say they have never used it. Digital exclusion in the UK is particularly high among the oldest age groups – around a third (34%) of those aged 75+ and one in ten (10%) of those aged 65-74 do not use the internet whereas virtually all in groups aged under 55 do. The proposed <i>Digital Exclusion</i> initiative planned to be delivered as part of this theme is likely to have a positive impact on older residents who are currently digitally excluded. One of the planned projects is also specifically designed to support older people in respect of digital exclusion and will operate boroughwide.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Three: – Culture, Business, Jobs & Skills				
Age (All age groups)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>One of the primary aims of this strand of projects is to provide support for people who are currently not in education, employment or training (NEET).</p>

				<p>Whilst many of these projects are available to people of all ages, specific support for young people is planned. A total of five projects are designed for young people who are NEET with four of these operating borough wide.</p> <p>Taking into account the current trend of entrenched unemployment in Tower Hamlets - 13.7% of people who have never worked/long term unemployed (10.3% and 8.5% for London & England and Wales)¹, a focus on youth and early intervention is considered to be a proportionate response.</p> <p>Additionally, one of the planned projects has been designed to provide specific support to residents who are both NEET and aged 50+</p>
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Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme 3: – Culture, Business, Jobs & Skills (continued)				
Age (All age groups)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Two cultural programmes have age considerations and are likely to have a positive impact on age groups by bringing together older and younger people in order to build understanding and cohesion.</p> <p>The key age focus of sporting programmes is on improving the health of children and young people. This responds to the need identified through data for example, children in year 6 in Tower Hamlets are more likely to be obese, 45% compared to London (41%) and England (38%).⁷</p> <p>A pupil survey also found that only 22% of both primary and secondary pupils had participated in a sports club or class outside of school. Targeting sporting activity at young people should positively impact on youth participation in sports, which is linked to healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>Examples of related projects in this theme include:</p>

				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Free supervised play for 5-13's in Limehouse and Poplar. 2. Teaching cricket to all children but especially those under-represented e.g. girls, multi-ethnic and low income <p>Focus on young people and health also consistent with the LCF, as is the focus on community cohesion through culture.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Four – Investing in Public Services				
Age (All age groups)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Scheme 4A – Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing of Older People. The title of this programme is somewhat self-explanatory and is designed to have a positive impact on older residents. Planned activities include meals delivery, luncheon clubs and developing projects aimed at tackling loneliness and inactive lifestyles,</p> <p>This scheme explicitly focuses on health of older people as there is a correlation between health, age and loneliness. Projects funded under the theme aim to have a positive impact on older people for example, by reducing isolation through buddy schemes and increasing healthy outcomes by running a programme of health and social events.</p> <p>4B – Physical and Mental Health of Residents:</p> <p>Some programmes within this theme will have a positive impact on certain age groups for example a further sporting project targeting young people with SEND (responding to the high level of children with SEND in Tower Hamlets – the 4th highest rate in London)⁵.</p>

				<p>One project focuses on tackling food poverty creating edible gardens to increase access to nature for disadvantaged children, responding to the high levels of child poverty in the borough.</p> <p>Projects funded under 4A and 4B have thematic consistency with projects funded through the LCF and mitigation funding.</p>
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Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Five – Empower Communities and Fight Crime:				
Age (All age groups)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Scheme 5A - Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality groups and Socio-economic Backgrounds – Positive</p> <p>One project funded aims to improve community cohesion between different age groups empowering communities by bringing people together to share culture and food across seven different wards and meeting the public sector equality duty to foster good relations.</p> <p>Scheme 5B – Community Safety – Positive Projects under the theme target young people at risk of crime, and young people who are ex-offenders, this is consistent with an early intervention / preventative approach to community safety.</p> <p>Similar projects, with similar aims to the LCF, but which deliver projects in schools and wider settings rather than in pupil referral units</p> <p>A further project funded under this theme supports children and families who have experienced trauma due to domestic violence. Supporting children and young people through early intervention.</p>

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
All Planned Activities under the <i>Mayors Community Grant Programme</i> versus the previous <i>Local Community Fund</i>. (LCF)				
Age (All age groups)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>One possible impact recorded.</p> <p>1: Previous LCF funding included a project enabling blind and partially sighted young people to participate in physical activities. It is recommended that mitigating action will include SEN and disabled young people sports project to to meet the needs of this group.</p>

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme One: – Tackling cost of living crisis:				
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Disabled Londoners or families with a disabled member have a higher risk than average of being in poverty³, therefore of needing support with cost-of-living crisis. Theme 1 should therefore have a positive impact by offering disabled residents who are experiencing poverty, access to advice for all residents boroughwide and nutritious food to vulnerable residents.</p> <p>In LCF Theme 3 – Advice and Information saw 47% of beneficiaries state they had a disability from Set 2021 – Oct 2022. This included residents with Sensory Impairment, Physical Impairment, Learning Disability, Mental Health Conditions, and Long-standing illness or health condition. We can expect that this theme will have a similar positive impact for residents with disabilities.</p> <p>Within the consortium providing advice, there are organisations specifically focused on supporting disabled residents. This is consistent with the LCF. Equalities monitoring / beneficiary feedback should be used to ensure there are no specific barriers to disabled people accessing the general services.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Two: Accelerating Education				
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2A Educational Attainment and Development of Children and Young People- Positive</p> <p>Residents with a disability were much more likely to have no qualifications than those without a disability. Similarly, residents with a disability were much less likely to have a level 4 qualification. ¹ Tower Hamlets also has a relatively high proportion of children with special educational needs and disabilities ⁵</p>

				<p>Two planned projects focus on supporting children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and operate boroughwide – using music and a programme of activities to empower children with SEN and their families to support peer support and improved outcomes.</p> <p>2B Lifelong Learning – positive Two projects also focus on adult learning for residents with a disability, specifically for those with a learning disability and those who are deaf or hard of hearing. This is a positive impact. However, there are gaps in provision for those with other physical disabilities and all mental health conditions.</p> <p>Residents with these disabilities would have the opportunity to access general services teaching basic digital skills and money management, equalities monitoring / beneficiary feedback should be used to ensure there are no specific barriers to disabled people accessing the general services. Especially considering those with visual and audio impairments and digital inclusivity.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Three: Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills				
Disability:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3A - Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents – Positive Disabled residents in work were slightly less likely to be in managerial, professional or associate professional occupations (57.2%) than residents without a disability (63.2%) and were therefore slightly more likely to be working in most other occupation types, in particular caring, leisure and other service occupations. ¹ 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. ⁴</p>

				<p>Two recommended projects specifically target disabled residents. Both are focused on improving employability, skills and experience and considering the needs of those with all disabilities - specifically mental health. The programmes aim to tackle the key inequality issues described above by residents with a disability who are less likely to be in work and in senior roles.</p> <p>Previous LCF funding focused on making the work environments for companies in Tower Hamlets more accessible for disabled employers. The MCGP projects focus more on supporting disabled people but do show recognition that removing barriers is key so there is a change in focus but not a gap. Project implementation should ensure projects are sensitive to the need to ensure employers understand their responsibilities.</p>
Disability:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3B - Sports, Local Culture and Heritage – Positive Culture In continuity from the LCF there is an accessible theatre and drama programme open to young people with disabilities under the age of 25.</p> <p>Sport One programme focuses on increasing sports participation for adults with disability and SEND boroughwide. The offer expands on the LCF projects which previously provided sport for blind and partially sighted young people, though this specific target group is no longer catered for. Mobilisation and equality monitoring should be used to ensure blind and partially sighted residents are able to access this project.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Four: Investing in Public Services -Physical and Mental Health				
Disability:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>While the projects funded under this theme do not specifically reference disability, the similar LCF Scheme D – Healthy living and healthy choices equalities data shows that between Oct 21 – Sept 22 42% of beneficiaries were residents with a disability.</p>

				This demonstrates the likely positive impact this theme will have for residents with a disability.
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Five – Empower Communities and Fight Crime				
Disability:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>5A – Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality groups and Socio-economic Backgrounds - Positive</p> <p>One project focuses on holistic assistance for all residents with a disability across the borough to support independence and ensure they can access services. This may go some way to supplement the specific disabilities which do not have support under 5B. A further project specifically works with Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic communities with mental health challenges to ensure they are able to access support.</p> <p>This corresponds to a need identified using data showing that certain multi-ethnic groups have higher levels of disability and resident feedback that mainstream services struggle to meet certain cultural needs.</p> <p>5B – Community Safety - Neutral</p> <p>While the theme makes explicit reference to residents with a disability, none of the funded projects are explicitly focused on residents with a disability. One project does target all residents but only in five wards, so disabled residents may benefit from safer parks if they live in this select area.</p> <p>The project under theme 5A will support residents with a range of service to support their independence including ensuring they can remain safe. The Council also commissions a Disabled Peoples Network with aim of ensuring disabled peoples voice reflect local service provision. As part of service monitoring it will be important to ensure projects support residents with disability.</p>

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme One: Tackling cost of living crisis				
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The overarching aims of this theme is to mitigate and reduce levels of poverty by supporting vulnerable residents and low-income households to access their rights, understand their obligations and maximise their incomes.</p> <p>None of projects are targeted to a particular Sex (e.g. Men or Women.) and there is little national data to indicate if a particular Sex is more or less likely to access certain support services. It is however recommended that all funded organisations capture the Sex of people accessing their services to identify if any trends exist e.g. a disproportionate number of women are accessing the service compared to men (or vice versa) which may indicate further targeted marketing or awareness of the service is required by the Council.</p> <p>The previous advice scheme funded under the LCF was accessed by mainly women who made up 60% of service users between Oct 2021 – Sep 2022. This may be explained by women being more likely to be unemployed (in the borough) and lone parents (across the UK). Monitoring data should consider if this gender split changes under MCGP.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Two: Accelerate Education				
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2A Educational Attainment and Development of Children and Young People – Adverse</p> <p>One project funded under the theme focuses on Sex having a positive impact on girls by supporting them with extracurricular activities. There is however a gap, as data shows that boys have lower attainment levels than girls at all stages. There is currently no specific provision for boys. Negative impact recorded.</p>

				<p>Scheme 2B – Lifelong Learning – Positive Provision is focused on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic women. This is likely to have a positive impact and responds to the identified ethnic gender employment gap in the borough with seven female ethnic groups having an employment rate below 50% while no corresponding male ethnic groups did ¹.</p> <p>There is no specific provision for white women. Through mobilisation and equality monitoring, the team can check there are no barriers to women accessing general residents services.</p> <p>Online safety training is planned for specific groups including women only sessions. The above themes expand on the previous provisions available via the LCF.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Three – Culture, Business, Jobs and Skills				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3A - Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents: The gender employment gap in the Borough is a key concern. Only 59% of working age women are employed compared to 82% of men. The ethnic employment (White vs Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic) gap amongst women is twice as wide in the borough (36%) compared to London (15%) ⁹. Women of specific ethnicities are much less likely to be employed. For example, only 28.6% for Bangladeshi women are currently employed ¹ Programmes funded under this theme respond directly to this need targeting women, unemployed women and Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic women. The funded organisations have experience supporting women and single parents.</p> <p>3B - Sports, Local Culture and Heritage – Positive Three projects target women and girls positively impacting on the disparity in women taking part in sports. A further planned project targets multi-ethnic men to tackle social exclusion.</p>

				LCF projects previously focused on sports provision for Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic women. Equalities monitoring data and beneficiary feedback will be collected to ensure the services aimed at women and girls are accessible to both multi-ethnic women and girls.
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Four – Investing in Public Services:				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>4A - Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing of Older People: Two projects aim to support groups of older women. Specifically, support for Bangladeshi women across 6 wards and Black, Asian and Multiethnic women with disabilities across 4 wards. These intersectional groups are likely to be experiencing complex challenges in the borough. Using outreach, day care and social activities to improve health. These projects expand on LCF offering, but the target group is very specific. This focus is justified by the large Bangladeshi population with a proportion (34.6%) and numerical size (107,333) size – the largest in the country.</p> <p>4B - Physical and Mental Health of Residents – Positive Violence against women has been identified as key challenge in the borough. One planned project focuses on providing disadvantaged women who are survivors of gender-based violence and may have complex needs with culturally competent counselling, positively impacting on survivors the majority of whom are women. ¹⁰ A further project specifically targets women’s health and wellbeing. With another focused on health and wellbeing for Muslim women. Counselling for survivors of domestic abuse is consistent with a previous LCF project.</p>

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Five: Empower Communities and Fight Crime:				
Sex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Scheme 5A – Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality groups and Socio-economic Backgrounds – Positive One project focuses on girls and women in Shadwell St Katherines and Wapping and Whitechapel empowering them to make positive choices.</p> <p>Scheme 5B – Community Safety – Positive One project provides self-defence classes for women and girls across four wards, another boroughwide advice and support targeted at Somali and Multi-ethnic women who are affected by domestic abuse. A further project provides 121 supports to women sex workers boroughwide.</p> <p>These projects under both 5A and 5B focus on women’s safety and preventing violence against women and are again aligned to key equalities priorities outlined in the Tower Hamlets Equality Objectives.</p> <p>This is a thematic continuation of projects funded by the LCF, self-defence classes are a new offering.</p>

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Themes One to Five Inclusive:				
Transgender:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Most themes do not specifically reference LGBTQIA+ The exception being <i>Theme 4 Scheme 4B – Physical and Mental Health of Residents</i> where one</p>

<p>(Including Gender Identity e.g. non binary, gender fluid etc.)</p>				<p>project focuses on supporting LGBTQIA+ residents often with intersectional protected characteristics enhancing peer networks to reduce isolation and provide mental health crisis support.</p> <p>A recent study undertaken by Stonewall found that over the previous year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half of LGBTIQ+ people had experienced depression and three in five had experienced anxiety. • One in eight LGBTIQ+ people aged 18 to 24 had attempted to end their life. • Almost half of trans people had thought about taking their life. <p>As previously stated, census 2021 figures show Tower Hamlets as among the top ten local authorities in England for people aged over 16 identifying as LGBTQIA+. Projects in Theme 4B will focused on marginalised young people at risk of suicide and people with mental health issue focused on the LGBTQIA+ community.</p> <p>Further under Theme 5B there is recognition that LGBTQIA+ people may be at greater risk of hate crime in the borough however no projects funded under the scheme address this issue. The council's commissions an LGBT community Forum to ensure LGBT community voice heard in policy and service design. Through our No Place for Hate campaign and work with partners on the hate incident panel we are able to review and address hate incidents impacting the LGBTQIA+ community.</p>
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Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Themes One to Five Inclusive:				
Marriage / Civil Partnership:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts on <i>Marriage and Civil Partnership</i> through the MCGP.
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Themes One to Five Inclusive:				
Pregnancy and Maternity:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no specific impacts in respect of <i>Pregnancy and Maternity</i> through the MCGP.
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Themes One to Five Inclusive:				
Religion or philosophical belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 5 – 5A Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality groups and Socio-economic Backgrounds – Positive</p> <p>One project is funded with explicit focus on challenging discrimination for those of a shared belief. The <i>Empowerment Project</i> will focus on addressing racism and faith-based abuse targeting particularly, but not exclusively, the boroughs Muslim Community.</p> <p>Muslim residents are also at increased risk of poor outcomes for example, being less likely to be employment, less likely to be in managerial professional roles and more likely not to be in good health. Similarly another project will focus on health and wellbeing targeted as Muslim women who disproportionately face the above challenges.</p>



Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme One: – Tackling cost of living crisis				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Tower Hamlets Poverty Review (2021) highlighted the links between inequality and poverty. Across London, some families have a much greater risk of being in poverty, including families with a disabled family member, families from Black, Asian & Multi-Ethnic communities, lone parents with children and larger families.</p> <p>As previously stated, the aims of this theme is to mitigate and reduce levels of poverty by supporting vulnerable residents and low-income households to access their rights, understand their obligations and maximise their incomes. Whilst this theme is not specifically targeted at any specific Race/ Ethnicity, we conclude that on balance, residents of all ethnicities (minority and majority) who are currently disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis will ultimately benefit from the delivery of this service in the Borough.</p> <p>Previous advice services funded by the LCF were accessed by a range of ethnicities between Oct 2021 – Sep 2022, Bangladeshi (41%), White British (19%), Other White residents (8%) Black British African (8%), Somali (5%), Carribean (5%) and Other Black British (4%) Non Bangladeshi Asian residents (4%), and Mixed White and Black (4%). Meaning that 81% of beneficiaries were Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic.</p> <p>One specific project under this theme targets specific ethnic communities who are Vietnamese and Chinese older adults. Census 2021 showed 3.3% residents identified as Asian Chinese, Vietnamese was not listed as a category however “Other” Asian groups were 2.2% in total. A lower proportion of Chinese residents accessed advice services than 3.3% so this may increase access to services for this group.</p>

				Trust for London data shows that at a London level Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic residents are more likely to be living in poverty. ³ Within the consortium providing advice there are organisations specifically focused on supporting Multi-ethnic women, for example a Bangladeshi organisation – this is appropriate as approximately 1/3 residents are Bangladeshi. Through mobilisation specific attention should be paid to racial profile of service users, and whether it matches the borough through equalities monitoring / beneficiary feedback to ensure there are no specific barriers to certain groups accessing services.
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Two: Accelerate Education				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>2A Educational Attainment and Development of Children and Young People – Positive Four planned projects specifically target multi-ethnic children and young people, supporting Bangladeshi, Somali and multi-ethnic young people.</p> <p>Scheme 2B – Lifelong Learning – Positive A total of six projects focus on Multi-ethnic groups, two on Black, Asian and multiethnic women, one on Bangladeshi women, one on Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic communities, one on migrants and one on both Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic communities and migrants. The <i>English for Speakers of Other Languages</i> will also benefit people who are on balance, likely to be minority ethnicity.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Three: Culture, Business, Jobs & Skills:				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>3A - Employment & Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents Seven planned projects explicitly focus on <i>Race</i>, supporting Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic residents of Somali and African/Caribbean descent, Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic women and Migrants, refugees and migrants, Black, Asian</p>



				<p>and Multi-Ethnic communities (x3) and Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic Young people.</p> <p>3B - Sports, Local Culture and Heritage There are two key priorities under this theme, which are culture and sport:</p> <p>There are two culturally related programmes planned:</p> <p>1: A project focusing on Bangladeshi culture</p> <p>2: A project focusing one on Somali culture</p> <p>(This is consistent with the demographic of the borough 10 and with the Tower Hamlets Equality Objectives 11)</p> <p>In respect of sport, one project focuses on boroughwide sports provision for Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic communities including specific focus on young women, young people and men over 45 – meeting both cultural and religious needs.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Four: Investing in Public Services:				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 4 - 4A - Physical and Mental Health Wellbeing of Older People – Positive</p> <p>Four projects support older people boroughwide with befriending schemes and activity clubs to prevent loneliness, isolation and support health. Older people of all races are provided for in this service offer. There are additional specific service offerings for Vietnamese and Chinese communities (boroughwide lunch club), Bangladeshi residents (day centre, Shadwell), two offerings for Bangladeshi women and a senior club tailored to but not exclusively for Somali residents, boroughwide.</p>

				Once again, this representation is broadly reflective of the ethnic make-up of the borough and on balance, will have a positive impact on different groups by providing culturally specific services.
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Four: Investing in Public Services				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 4 Scheme 4B – Physical and Mental Health of Residents – Positive</p> <p>There is boroughwide provision specifically targeted at Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic communities focusing on health advice for conditions commonly disproportionately impacting multi-ethnic residents, operating borough wide. A more local project also references multi-ethnic groups alongside others, with sessions designed to improve health and connection across five wards.</p> <p>This is particularly important as the Asian ethnic group has substantially higher levels of poor health amongst those aged 50 and above than any other ethnic group. The boroughwide project is run by a group with links to local mosques which is significant because residents who identified their religion as Muslim were the most likely overall to not be in good health. Older Muslims (aged 50+) were much more likely than any other religious group of that age to not be in good health.</p> <p>70% of those accessing health focused LCF funded projects between Oct 21-Sep 22 were Multi-Ethnic with 36% of those Asian / Asian British Bangladeshi.</p>

Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
Theme Five: Empower Communities and Fight Crime:				
Race	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Scheme 5A – Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality groups and Socio-economic Backgrounds – Positive Three projects focus on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic communities, two serving the whole borough. One particular project meets the intersectional needs of the community and two of the equality objectives (3+4) by recruiting 60% women to become charity trustees, supporting residents into leadership roles and ensuring diversity is reflected.</p> <p>Scheme 5B – Community Safety – Positive Two projects focus on Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic residents, one providing support for Somali and other multi-ethnic women affected by domestic abuse across the borough, and another running self-defence classes for multi-ethnic young people across five wards. This aligns well to the Councils’ equalities priorities focusing on addressing inequalities faced by the Somali community and improving overall safety for women.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
All themes:				
Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><i>Sexual Orientation</i> is a specific priority in Theme 4 Scheme 4B – <i>Physical and Mental Health of Residents</i> where one project focuses on supporting LGBTQIA+ residents often with intersectional protected characteristics enhancing peer networks to reduce isolation and provide mental health crisis support.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
All themes:				
Socio and Economic Status:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Positive Impact: Many of the planned projects are designed to provide support for vulnerable and hard to reach adults who on balance, are likely to be of a lower socio and economic status.</p>

				<p>For example, the <i>Cost of Living Crisis</i> programme potentially has a positive impact on residents of a lower <i>Socio and Economic Status</i> who are more likely to be facing complex challenges as a result of the current increase in the cost of living.</p> <p>Further under Theme 3A one project specifically focuses on support homeless people to be closer to or move into employment, impacting positively this group at higher socio-economic risk.</p>
Groups	Positive	Negative	Neutral	Considering the above information and evidence, describe the impact this proposal will have on the following groups?
All themes:				
Parents/Carers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Theme 4 – 4B Positive</p> <p>A project under this theme supports unpaid carers boroughwide, building resilience through therapies and learning opportunities.</p> <p>Neutral – While there are no particular project for young carers, the Council’s youth service provides a range of support to young carers Young carers: support and advice (towerhamlets.gov.uk). Further work will be undertaken with service to understand if need for additional VCS provision.</p>

Section 5: Impact analysis and action plan

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress	Officer responsible	Update on progress
Existing provision which may not be recommended for funding in MCGP ensure users signposted to alternative provision	As part of mobilisation identify user groups that maybe impacted and discuss with providers ensuring transition to alternative providers	Oct – Dec 2023	VCS Grants Lead	
Equalities Monitoring and reporting framework	Develop a standard Equalities monitoring template for all projects, collect and monitor data	Oct – Nov 23 Annual report throughout life time of the project	VCS Grants Lead	
Show additional consideration for wards under-served in ward specific projects, through: -Short term mobilisation - Long-term VCS capacity building	Ensure boroughwide projects meet the needs of: ❖ Bow East ❖ Bow West ❖ Bromley North ❖ Bromley South Review in quarterly monitoring returns to identify gaps	Oct – Nov 23 Quarterly throughout lifetime of project	VCS Grants Lead	
Respond to any gaps in project funding by protected characteristic following the below stages. 1. Checking existing service provision across the Council 2. Checking if recommended projects can accommodate 3. Commissioning an alternative 4. Monitoring chosen provision	Support for young carers	Stage 1: Sept 2023 Stage 2: Oct-Nov 2023 Stage 3: Dec 2023 Stage 4 - ongoing	VCS Grants Lead	

<p>Respond to any gaps in project funding by protected characteristic following the below stages.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As part of mobilisation discuss with provider of SEND and disabled young peoples projects to accommodate this provision 2. Monitoring quarterly basis to ensure provision meets needs 	<p>Sports provision for blind partially sighted young people under theme 3B</p>	<p>Stage 1: October 2023</p> <p>Stage 2: Quarterly monitoring through project lifetime</p>	<p>VCS Grants Lead</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss with Disabled Peoples Network provider how provision supports the groups needs on community safety 2. As part of mobilisation discuss with recommended projects how needs of disabled residents will be met. 3. Monitoring quarterly basis to ensure provision meets needs 	<p>Under theme 5B- Ensure disabled residents are able to access Community Safety provision.</p>	<p>Stage 1: Oct- Nov 2023</p> <p>Stage 2: Oct – Nov 2023</p> <p>Stage 3: Quarterly monitoring through project lifetime</p>	<p>VCS Grants Lead</p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss with LGBT Community Forum how provision supports the groups need on community safety 4. As part of mobilisation discuss with recommended projects how needs of LGBT residents will be met. 2. Monitoring quarterly basis to ensure provision meets needs 	<p>Under theme 5B- Ensure LGBTQIA+ residents are able to access Community Safety provision.</p>	<p>Stage 1: Oct- Nov 2023</p> <p>Stage 2: Oct – Nov 2023</p> <p>Stage 3: Quarterly monitoring through project lifetime</p>	<p>VCS Grants Lead</p>	

<p>1. As part of mobilisation discuss with providers how recommended projects will accommodate boys</p> <p>2. Monitor equalities data</p>	<p>Under Theme 2A ensure that boys are accessing the gender-neutral educational offering as there is no Specific provision for boys in the borough despite their lower attainment</p>	<p>Stage 1: Sept-Oct 2023</p> <p>Stage 2: Quarterly monitoring through project lifetime</p>	<p>VCS Grants Lead</p>	
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Section 6: Monitoring

What monitoring processes have been put in place to check the delivery of the above action plan and impact on equality groups?





Quarterly performance monitoring reports on projects will be provided to the Grants Determination Sub Committee along with an Annual Report which will set out how groups are supporting protected characteristics.

The below processes are also recommended to support the above actions:

- 1: Develop a standard Equalities monitoring template to be used by providers to capture equalities data as set in the Council's equality monitoring approach.
- 2: Report on the above data annually.
- 3: Develop a one page *Accessibility and Equality Impact* template to be completed by all providers to ensure all services delivered are both inclusive and accessible.
- 4: Deliver events which bring together providers and set out the Council's commitment to equality and the obligations of grant funded organisations in respect of the *Public Sector Equality Duty*.

Appendix A

EIA decision rating

Decision	Action	Risk
As a result of performing the EIA, it is evident that a disproportionately negative impact (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) exists to one or more of the nine groups of people who share a Protected Characteristic under the Equality Act and appropriate mitigations cannot be put in place to mitigate against negative impact. It is recommended that this proposal be suspended until further work is undertaken.	Suspend – Further Work Required	Red 
As a result of performing the EIA, it is evident that there is a risk that a disproportionately negative impact (direct, indirect, unintentional or otherwise) exists to one or more of the nine groups of people who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. However, there is a genuine determining reason that could legitimise or justify the use of this policy.	Further (specialist) advice should be taken	Red Amber 
As a result of performing the EIA, it is evident that there is a risk that a disproportionately negatively impact (as described above) exists to one or more of the nine groups of people who share a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. However, this risk may be removed or reduced by implementing the actions detailed within the <i>Impact analysis and action plan</i> section of this document.	Proceed pending agreement of mitigating action	Amber 
Green: As a result of performing this analysis, the policy or activity does not appear to have any adverse effects on people who share <i>Protected Characteristics</i> and no further actions are recommended at this stage.	Proceed	Green 

Appendix B – Previous LCF Funding and Projects (Detailed Overview)

Previous LCF Funding and Projects:

Within the five themes projects focused on:

Theme 1 – Scheme A: Children, Young People and Families:

- Providing activities, enhancing core skills and increasing uptake of youth services for girls and young women.
- Culture and theatre for children and young people including young adults with disabilities.
- Specialist support for children who have experienced domestic abuse.
- Family mentoring to support early help for children and young people.
- Workshops for teens focused on leadership and drama.

Age, Gender and Disability: A range of activities to improve life outcomes for children and young people, a number of projects specifically targeting girls and young women with one focused on disabled young people.

Theme 1 – Scheme B: Older People:

- Older people were supported through this scheme with two buddy scheme's supporting them at home, the provision of an activity centre, a lunch club with integrated activities, a holistic wellbeing centre and a Vietnamese and Chinese lunch and social club.

Age, Race: Targeted support was provided for older people, in and outside the home improving health – with one project specifically focused on Vietnamese and Chinese residents.

Theme 1 - Scheme C: Access, Information and Self-Management:

- Mindfulness pain management programme targeting residents with chronic pain or illness and a project co-producing support with people with lived experience of disability.

Previous LCF Funding and Projects (continued)

Disability: Projects aimed at improving health outcomes and services for disabled residents included:

Theme 1 – Scheme D: Healthy living and healthy choices

- Projects aimed at increasing exercise for residents, targeting Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic women, children and young people, inactive young people, with a further project enabling 60 blind and partially sighted young people to participate in physical activities.
- One project focused on providing a free membership health club to all residents.

Age, Disability, Gender, Race: Projects under Scheme 1D targeted young people, multi-ethnic women and disabled residents.

Theme 1 – Scheme E: Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues.

- Projects focused on improving health and wellbeing for deaf and hard of hearing residents, partnership working with residents with disabilities to create an accessible newspaper promoting health.
- Project supporting disabled young people with educational and recreational opportunities.
- Project offering therapeutic support for women affected by domestic abuse.
- Improving wellbeing of those with lived experience of mental health.

Disability, Age, Gender: Projects focus on supporting residents with specific disabilities and mental health to improve health. Including specifically targeting young people and women who experienced domestic abuse.

Theme 2 – Scheme A: ICT skills and digital careers

- Three projects focused on digital inclusion for older adults to prevent isolation, including one specifically targeting Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic adults.

Age, Race: Minimising digital exclusion for older adults and multi ethnic older adults.

Previous LCF Funding and Projects (continued)

Theme 2 – Scheme B: Online Safety:

- Project training women to become e-safety champions for the community, sharing knowledge to benefit young people parents/ carers, and another building digital resilience of children and young people

Age, Gender: Project improving women's skills and concentrating on safety for children and young people.

Theme 3 – Scheme A: Advice and Information:

- Provision of advice services for residents including benefits, housing and employment.
- Project focused on improving capacity training quality and access to the borough's advice services through coordination and cooperation between internal services.

While these projects did not have explicit commitments to support residents with 'Protected Characteristics', some groups with shared characteristics were more likely to use these services based on historic inequalities within the Borough.

Theme 4 – Scheme A: Developing and embedding good practice in the work place for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work

- Working with employers in Tower Hamlets through co-production to support companies to be excellent employers of disabled people.

Disability: Impacts positively for disabled people by making work environments more accessible.

Theme 4 - Scheme B: Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups

- Supporting women into training and work. One project focused on employment support generally, another worked with people who are 'NEET' (not in education, employment or training). Separate projects were delivered to young people to increase employability and support for long term unemployed Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic women - particularly focused on meeting the needs of carers and single parents of Bengali, Somali and multi-ethnic heritage with limited English.

Age, Gender and Race, including carers and parents: The funded projects focused on increasing employment for women and specifically multi-ethnic women

with caring responsibilities. Finally schemes target increasing employment among young people.

Theme 4 – Scheme C: Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries:

- Projects focus on increasing higher education among young people in the borough to improve access to arts and cultural industries. A separate scheme focused on increasing representation from under-represented communities within the creative industry.
- Further schemes focus on working with disadvantaged residents particularly Black, Asian and multi-ethnic residents' women and those with disabilities to increase participation in creative industry. A further scheme similarly focused on multi-ethnic and working-class residents.

Age, Disability, Gender, Race, Socio-economic: The work funded under this theme aimed to increase the job prospects of young people, those with a disability, women, multi-ethnic residents, working-class residents and specifically multi-ethnic women.

Theme 5 – Scheme A: Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups:

- Creative programme to support pupils in pupil referral units to prevent exploitation.
- Two programmes promoting resilience among young people to support community cohesion and safety.

Age: Young people supported to feel more empowered and active in their communities.

Theme 5 – Scheme B: Improving the perception of young people in the community:

- Photography project using the arts to support intergenerational cohesion between young people (14-25 yrs) and older people (over 50). A further project with similar aims focused on co-production between age groups of programme of activities and celebrations. **Age:** Projects seek to increase community cohesion between older and younger people.

Theme 5 – Scheme C: Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstances:

- Project supporting families living in refuges to address trauma they have faced and raising awareness of domestic violence and how to report across the community. **Gender:** Women are disproportionately survivors of domestic violence therefore the project was likely to have a direct positive impact on women in the borough.

Previous LCF Funding and Projects (continued)

LCF Mitigation Funding

Four mitigation projects were additionally funded as a result of the equality impact analysis conducted after the first set of funding decisions. These covered the following areas:

- *Vallance Sports Association: Sports Disability*
Summary: Increase participation in sports for disabled young people aged 12-25 to improve their wellbeing and life outcomes.
- *Toyhouse – Mellow Parenting Course Project*
Summary: For parents struggling with children under 5, a parenting course with lunch and activities for under 5s.
- *Streets of Growth: Caring and Coping Project*
Summary: Advice and guidance support for young carers, vulnerable young people who have experienced abuse/poverty/bereavement/gender identity challenges etc.
- *Step Forward: Reach Me Project - Early intervention, mental health programme for young people, tailored to their individual needs.*

Appendix B – Census 2021 – Key Data

Housing:

Housing is a key concern in Tower Hamlets with the lowest proportion of owner occupiers in England and Wales 23.1%, and the 5th highest proportion of households renting privately at 38.2%. 15.8% of households were overcrowded.

Inequality:

Inequality and specifically income inequality is also a key challenge in the borough with both higher-than-average proportions of senior managers and higher than average long term unemployment. 20.9% in higher managerial, administrative and professional occupations compared to London (17.6%) and England & Wales (13.1%) and 13.7% who have never worked/long term unemployed (10.3% and 8.5% for London & England and Wales).

Age:

Age – Tower Hamlets has a relatively young population; we have the lowest proportion of older people in the country with less than 6% of the population aged 65+ (5.6%) [Census 2021] but these groups are disproportionately living in poverty. 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 average¹.

Disability:

Disability – A quarter of households have at least one disabled resident (25.7%), 12.9% of residents have a disability
Disabled residents in work were slightly less likely to be in managerial, professional or associate professional occupations (57.2%) than residents without a disability (63.2%) and were therefore slightly more likely to be working in most other occupation types, in particular caring, leisure and other service occupations.
Age is unsurprisingly a significant factor in disability with the proportion of residents with a disability increasing with every age group. Amongst children aged 0-14 males were more likely to have a disability than females. For all age groups aged 15 and above, females were more likely than males to have a disability. The difference between males and females was greatest among those aged between 40 to 84, with a gap of 7.7% between 50-54 year old females and 50-54 year old males.

¹ Index Multiple Deprivation 2019

Certain ethnic groups had higher rates of disability with 26.8% of Gypsy and Irish traveller residents reporting a disability and 22.7% of Black Caribbean residents, White Irish and British residents both had a rate of 18.4%. The lowest rate was 3.6% for Roma groups.

There are some significant differences in the rate of disability among residents of different religions. Hindu residents had the lowest rate of disability at 5.5% while 'Other religion' had the highest rate (21.5%) followed by Jewish (18.7%)

Residents with a disability were much more likely to have no qualifications than those without a disability. Similarly, residents with a disability were much less likely to have a level 4 qualification.

Sex:

Sex – Females in employment were slightly more likely than males to be working in managerial, professional and associate professional occupations (64.0% compared with 61.7%). Females were much more likely to be working in administrative and secretarial occupations and in caring, leisure and other service occupations. Males were much more likely to be working in skilled trades and in process, plant and machine occupations.

Females were more likely than males to have no qualifications. They were also less likely to have level 4 qualifications. The difference is fairly small but this compares to London as a whole where females were 1.6% more likely than males to have level 4 qualifications.

Religion:

Adults aged 16+ with no religion were more likely to be in employment than residents of any major religion. This was true of both males and females. Muslim residents were the least likely to be in employment (both males and females) with Female Muslims by far the least likely to be in employment.

In terms of unemployment, males of most religious groups (and none) were more likely than females from the same religion to be unemployed (the exceptions to this being Hindu, Sikh and other religion). Buddhist males had the highest rate of unemployment at 8.1% followed by Muslim males at 7.0%.

Working residents who identified as Hindu were the most likely to be in managerial, professional and associate professional occupations (86.5%), followed by Jewish (83.1%), No religion (78.2%) and Sikh (76.3%). 62.6% of residents who identified as Christian were in such occupations which was almost identical to the average for all working residents of 62.7%. Residents who identified as Muslim were much less likely to be in these occupations (33.7%) whereas they are over-represented in every other occupation group.

Residents who identified their religion as Muslim were the most likely overall to not be in good health. Older Muslims (aged 50+) were much more likely than any other religious group of that age to not be in good health. Hindu residents were the least likely to not be in good health overall. Those of no religion were the least likely to not be in good health amongst those aged 50+.

Race:

Tower Hamlets has the largest Bangladeshi population in England and Wales at 34.6%, and the third highest proportion of Chinese residents. 14.6% of residents are White Other and similar to London but double England and Wales and 5% are Black African again double E& W but below London (7.9%).

There are significant variations in employment rate between ethnic groups in Tower Hamlets, particularly for females. The male group with the lowest employment rate is Bangladeshi at 52.9%, the lowest female group was also Bangladeshi at 28.6%. Seven female ethnic groups had an employment rate below 50% while no male ethnic groups did.

Males were more likely than Females to be unemployed (economically active and actively seeking work) for most but not all ethnic groups. Females from Other White ethnic backgrounds, Roma, Pakistani and Indian backgrounds were all more likely than males of the same ethnic group to be unemployed.

Household reference persons from a Black Caribbean, Black African or Black Other background were by far the least likely to own their own home or a share in their own home. They were the most likely to be renting through the Council or a social landlord. The next lowest level of home ownership was among Household Reference persons from Other Ethnic groups, followed by those from an Asian ethnic group.

There was a very significant variation in the level of overcrowding based on the ethnicity of the household reference person. This ranged from 4.9% for households where the household reference person was White British to 30.8% where the household reference person was Asian. Households in which the household reference person was Black African, Black Caribbean, or Black Other were also above the borough average for overcrowding and significantly above the proportion for households where the household reference person were from White backgrounds.

The group that was most likely to be renting privately were from a White Other background (including Gypsy or Irish Traveller and Roma). This was also the group that by far the least likely to be in a social rented tenure.

The proportion of residents who are not in good health varies somewhat across ethnic group. It is particularly low amongst the White Other group and is highest amongst the White British group. However, when examined by age, it can be seen that the Asian ethnic group has substantially higher levels of poor health amongst those aged 50 and above than any other ethnic group.

Sexual Orientation:

Higher proportion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Other sexual orientations at 7.2% compared to 4.2% and 3.1% for London and England & Wales

Socio-Economic:

Of those residents in current work, 62.7% were in managerial, professional or associate professional occupations. When analysed by broad ethnic group, this was much lower among Black Caribbean and Black African and Black Other residents (46.6%) and Asian residents (48.8%). It was highest among White Irish residents (83.6%) followed by White British residents (73.7%) and White Other residents

(71.0%). Residents from Black African, Black Caribbean and Black Other backgrounds were more likely to working in elementary occupations and caring, leisure and other service occupations than other broad ethnic groups. Residents from Asian backgrounds were more likely to be working in sales and customer service occupations, administrative and secretarial occupations and process, plant and machine occupations.

Appendix C: References:

- 1, Office for National Statistics, Census 2021
- 2, Index Multiple Deprivation 2019
- 3, Trust for London, London Poverty Profile 2022
- 4, ONS, Annual Population Survey 2016-19 (3-year average)
- 5 Department for Education, Special educational needs in England 2021/22
- 6 Department for Education, Early years foundation stage profile results 2021/22
- 7 Public health England, National Child Measurement Programme, England, 2021/22
- 8, Education Policy Institute, Education in England: Annual Report 2020
- 9, ¹ [Borough Profile 2020](#)
- 10, [Tower Hamlets, Equality Policy](#)
- 11, [Tower Hamlets, Strategic Plan](#)
- 12, [UK Poverty 2019/20 | JRF](#)
- 13, [Families and households in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)

Training and Support

Raising awareness of the programme

The Mayor's Community Grants Programme was launched on 24th April 2023 and was open for applications for 6 weeks, closing on 5th June 2023 at midday.

All the information about the new programme and how to apply was available on the council website at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/mcgp.

To launch the new programme, we worked in partnership with the Communications Service to put in place an extensive communications and marketing plan. This included:

- A press release
- Articles in the council's VCS newsletter
- Email bulletin to internal teams who work with the VCS
- Email bulletin to partners who work with the VCS
- Information on Tower Hamlets CVS Website and Newsletters
- An article in Tower Hamlets resident's newsletter
- Article in internal staff newsletter THNow
- Article on Members Bulletin
- Articles in the Bengali press
- Social media campaign
- Short video from Cabinet Member for Resources and Cost of Living

Information events

The council organised 3 information events. The purpose of these events was to share information about the new programme and provide information and advice on how to apply to MCGP.

Below are more details about the events:

Event 1

Date: Wednesday 26th April

Time: 1.30-3.00pm

Venue: Tower Hamlets Town Hall, Council Chamber, 160 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ.

Attendees: 27

Event 2

Date: Friday 5th May

Time: 10-11.30am

Venue: Online

Attendees: 59

Event 3

Date: Thursday 11th May

Time: 6-7.30pm

Venue: The Reach Community Hub, 11 Oliphant St, London E14 0GB

Attendees: 29

Information and support from the Council

The council ensured that the organisations who wanted to apply had access to all the information they required.

On the webpage we provided access to our prospectus, which provided general guidance, assessment criteria and information on the theme and schemes.

We also provided written guidance on how to use the council's online grants system, Blackbaud, to make applications.

We provided an email address for applicants to get in touch with the council if they had any questions and we uploaded all relevant questions onto an FAQ document on the webpage.

Training support from Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services

The council wanted to ensure applicants were equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to put in high quality applications. In support of this we commissioned THCVS to provide a package of support to the voluntary and community sector.

This included 21 training sessions focused on preparing for applications and finalising bids. These were designed to be accessible and took place in different areas of the borough, online and at different times. In total they were attended by 96 applicants.

They also provided 20 online and in-person drop-in sessions where applicants could get access to extra advice, guidance, and support. Finally, they provided 1-1 support for applicants to develop their bids which were attended by 52 of organisations.

Assessment Process

Funding Criteria

The funding criteria was split into two sections: organisational criteria which relate to the organisation, its governance and management and project criteria which relates to the activities applicants were seeking funding for.

The tables below set out the criteria and summarises the information we expected organisations to provide to meet the criteria.

Organisation Assessment

The organisational assessment was to see whether organisations meet the standards of governance, management and financial competence the Council expects of organisations it supports with public funds. The Council has a standard organisation assessment for all its funding and other support to VCS organisations.

The organisation assessment is based on an examination of the documents we asked organisations to provide and questions we asked on the application form.

Applicants were asked on the application form to upload these documents in an electronic format (preferably PDF). If any required documents were not available, we provided a text box to let us know why and whether organisations were able to send them to us later.

The assessment was proportionate to the size of the organisation. For some of the criteria the Council expected larger organisations to meet higher standards than small ones. We defined organisations size by annual income (by which we normally mean as set out in the organisations last approved accounts), as follows:

- small VCS organisations as ones with gross annual income up to £150,000
- medium size VCS organisations as ones with a gross annual income of between £150,001 to £250,000
- large VCS organisations have income over £250,000.

Details of the criteria we used to assess the organisation, the standards expected, the evidence we look for and how the Council scored the assessment are set out in the table below.

If organisations did not pass the three essential pass/fail criteria (Governance, Managing Money and Borough Connection), none of the projects went forward to the next stage of assessment. Other criteria were assessed as pass/partial pass/fail.

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
<p>Governance</p> <p><i>This is pass/fail.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not meet the required standard, your projects will not be assessed.</i></p>	<p>You must have a Constitution, Memorandum and Articles of Association or other recognised governance document that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • membership details, • committee structure • not for profit clause • dissolution clause. 	<p>You should submit a copy of your constitution or other governance document.</p>	<p>Membership must be open or, if not, restriction must be justified and not based on ability to pay fees.</p> <p>Large organisations should have a committee structure to facilitate good governance.</p> <p>Not-for-profit clause must ensure surpluses and/or profits are not distributed to members but are reinvested in the organisation. Dissolution clause must prevent assets from being distributed to members if the organisation ceases to operate and dissolves.</p>
	<p>You will also need to be able to show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • you have a governing board or committee which meets regularly 	<p>Provide on the application form:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a list of the board/committee dates for the past 12 months • a list of board/manage 	<p>Management committee meetings should be as set out in the governing document or more frequent.</p> <p>List of management committee/board members may also</p>

Appendix C

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your last annual general meeting (AGM) took place within the last 18 months, and • (If you are a larger organisation) you have sub committees to deal with areas such as finance or personnel. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ment committee members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • date of the last AGM • for large organisations, a list of sub-committees, meeting dates and their membership. 	<p>be included in annual report and/or accounts.</p> <p>AGM date should be within 18 months prior to application unless there's reasonable cause for a longer period is explained in the application form.</p> <p>Sub Committees (large organisations only) should conform to governance document requirements.</p>
<p>Borough Connection</p> <p><i>This is pass/fail.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not meet the required standard, your projects will not be assessed.</i></p>	<p>Your organisation must be registered in Tower Hamlets, have a base in Tower Hamlets or be able to demonstrate a track record of successful service delivery within the borough</p>	<p>Please provide your registered address, provide a copy of your rental agreement where you deliver activities (this should cover a period of at least two years) or provide other evidence that you have successfully delivered services in Tower Hamlets for at least two years.</p>	<p>If your organisation is based in the borough you can share your address</p> <p>If you are not based in the borough you will need to show a rental agreement for where you deliver your activities that covers a duration of at least 2 years.</p> <p>Evidence that you have worked with a partner organisation or have had other arrangements to provide services in</p>

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
			Tower Hamlets for two years.
<p>Quality assurance</p> <p><i>If you only score a partial pass or fail, your projects may still be assessed.</i></p> <p><i>If a grant is then awarded, funding will not be paid until we have agreed an action plan with you to achieve the required standards over a period of time.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not achieve the required standards within the agreed timescale, the Council may withdraw its support.</i></p>	<p>You must show that you have achieved a relevant quality assurance (QA) standard or some other evidence which shows that your organisation actively tries to improve both the quality of your management and the services your organisation provides.</p> <p>Examples of standards include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trusted Charity Mark (formally known as PQASSO) • EFQM Excellence Model • ISO 9000/1 • Matrix Standard • accredited sports related accreditations which have a strong element of assessing governance • London Youth Quality Mark (bronze will be accepted but with a clear plan in place on how 	<p>You should submit QA certificate/accreditation if you have it.</p> <p>If you do not have this, you should submit evidence that shows your organisation actively tries to improve quality.</p> <p>This may include,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confirmation from a QA accreditation body that your organisation is seeking accreditation • a letter from THCVS or similar body that your organisation is engaged on a QA programme • evidence of a self-assessment such as Social Value Self Assessment Tool - Social Value Calculator for measurement (socialvalueuk.org). 	<p>Pass Relevant QA accreditation must be in place with evidence of action to maintain standards.</p> <p>Partial Pass If no QA accreditation is in place, you must show evidence of working towards QA and/or evidence that a quality standard framework or appropriate processes are in place.</p> <p>Fail No QA or other quality measures in place or proposed.</p>

Appendix C

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
	<p>silver/gold can be achieved).</p> <p>Other QA standards appropriate to your services may be accepted.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> evidence of the processes your organisation has in place to ensure the delivery of quality services. 	
<p>Business planning</p> <p><i>If you only score a partial pass or fail, your projects may still be assessed.</i></p> <p><i>If a grant is then awarded, funding will not be paid until we have agreed an action plan with you to achieve the required standards over a period of up to twelve months.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not achieve the required standards within the agreed timescale, the Council may withdraw its support.</i></p>	<p>Your organisation should have a business plan or strategic plan. If you are a small/medium organisation, it does not need to be very sophisticated, but enough to show you have thought about and planned how you will provide your services.</p> <p>Large organisations</p> <p>You should have a full three-to-five-year plan which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> organisational purpose, aims & objectives client need strategic context, i.e. policy environment, issues affecting clients, how needs may change over time (could be PEST - (political, 	<p>You should submit a copy of your business plan</p>	<p>Pass</p> <p>A business or strategic plan that includes all seven key issues listed on the left.</p> <p>Consideration will be given to the level of detail, coherence and overall quality of the plan proportionate to the standard required for the size of the organisation.</p> <p>Partial Pass</p> <p>Large organisation</p> <p>Business plan which covers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) some but not all the key issues, or b) all the issues but not in detail <p>Medium and small organisations</p>

Appendix C

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
	<p>economic social and technological analysis)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assessment of organisational capacity (ie. SWOT – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats analysis) • plans for next 3-5 years (year 1 in detail) • resources required to fulfil plans • risk assessment and contingency planning. <p>Medium or small organisation</p> <p>A document which demonstrates the organisation has considered the seven key issues in detail. Level of detail will be proportionate to the size of the organisation.</p>		<p>A document which demonstrates the organisation has considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) some but not all the key issues, or b) all the issues but not in detail. <p>Consideration will be given to the level of detail, coherence and overall quality of the plan proportionate to the standard required for the size of the organisation.</p> <p>Fail Large Organisations – no business plan or business plan which does not cover any or only one of the key issues listed above. Medium and small organisations – no indication that the organisation has considered any or only one of the key issues.</p>
Managing people	If you employ staff, your management must include:	Submit policy and procedures	Pass Comprehensive policies and

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
<p><i>If you only score a partial pass or fail, your projects may still be assessed.</i></p> <p><i>If a grant is then awarded, funding will not be paid until we have agreed an action plan with you to achieve the required standards over a period of up to twelve months.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not achieve the required standards within the agreed timescale, the Council may withdraw its support.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an effective and fair way of recruiting staff, using a job description and person specification • written contracts of employment, which meet legal requirements • clear written discipline and grievance procedures in line with ACAS codes of practice; and • adequate training for the duties they have to perform. • equal opportunities procedures which relate and apply to recruitment and management of staff. <p>If you work with volunteers, your management should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a recruitment process to ensure volunteers are 	<p>document if available.</p> <p>If this not available, submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sample JD and person specification • sample contract of employment • written discipline and grievance procedures • details of recent training provided. <p>And for volunteers, your volunteer policy and procedure document if available, or:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sample volunteer description • sample volunteer agreement • written volunteer policy and procedures • details of recent training provided to volunteers. 	<p>procedures in place, or adequate alternative documentation</p> <p>Partial Pass Policy and procedures and/or other documents do not meet ACAS standards and remedial action planned.</p> <p>Fail No policy and procedures or other documentation.</p>

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
	<p>appropriately placed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a clear description of volunteers' roles, and • adequate training for the duties they have to perform • clear procedures for reimbursing volunteer expenses • equal opportunities procedures which relate and apply to recruitment and management of volunteers. 		
<p>Managing money</p> <p><i>This is pass/fail.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not meet the required standards, your projects will not be assessed.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must keep to all financial and accounting requirements of charity and company law, where appropriate • You must be able to provide accounts appropriate to the size of your organisation. • You must follow good practice in 	<p>Submit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • latest annual accounts • budget for the current year (this should be part of your business plan) • confirmation of your bank details • for large and medium size organisations, written finance procedures. 	<p>Pass</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accounts meet charity commission or other regulator's standards • balanced income and expenditure budget for the organisation • latest annual accounts show that the organisation does not have creditors/debts

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
	<p>relation to your organisations financial controls. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Annual accounts ➤ Balanced budget ➤ Sustainable funding ➤ Reserves policy ➤ Bank accounts in the organisation's name ➤ (for large organisations) written financial procedures document. 		<p>which appear unserviceable over the coming year(s) given their average income of unrestricted or designated funds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the organisation can demonstrate income from a diversity of funding sources. • the organisation has a clear reserves policy which is appropriate for its size. <p>NB New organisations will not have accounts. Assessment should therefore exclude reference to accounts but include all other points.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity</p> <p><i>If you only score a partial pass or fail, your projects may still be assessed.</i></p> <p><i>If a grant is then awarded, funding will</i></p>	<p>You must have an equal opportunities or equality and diversity policy and be able to show that you actively use it in these key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in recruitment (to board and staffing) 	<p>Submit Equality and Diversity Policy</p>	<p>Pass An equal opportunities or equality and diversity statement or policy in place which addresses all three of the key areas.</p> <p>Partial pass</p>

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
<p><i>not be paid until we have agreed an action plan with you to achieve the required standards over a period of up to twelve months.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not achieve the required standards within the agreed timescale, the Council may withdraw its support.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in planning and provision of services • in the management of your organisation. 		<p>At least two of the three key areas are addressed.</p> <p>Fail Only one or none of the key areas are addressed.</p>
<p>Safeguarding children and adults at risk of abuse</p> <p><i>If you only score a partial pass or fail, your projects may still be assessed.</i></p> <p><i>If a grant is then awarded, funding will not be paid until you achieve the required standards.</i></p>	<p>If your organisation works with children and adults at risk of abuse, you must have an appropriate policy. Guidance on safeguarding policies and procedures specifically for VCS organisations can be found here Policies and procedures - NCVO.</p> <p>You can also find information about adults and children safeguarding on our website. Use the search function for relevant section.</p> <p>You also need to demonstrate that</p>	<p>Submit safeguarding policy.</p> <p>Training plan for board, staff, and volunteers.</p>	<p>All organisations must have safeguarding policies and procedures in place appropriate to their activities.</p> <p>Pass A policy and procedures document that addresses the five key areas set out in the NCVO guidance,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safeguarding policy • reporting procedure • code of conduct • a risk policy and register • trustees' annual report.

Appendix C

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
	staff and volunteers are appropriately trained.		<p>And a training plan in place.</p> <p>Partial pass Some, but not all the key areas are addressed.</p> <p>Fail None of the key areas are addressed.</p>
<p>Insurance</p> <p><i>If you only score a partial pass or fail, your projects may still be assessed.</i></p> <p><i>If a grant is then awarded, funding will not be paid until you achieve the required standards.</i></p>	<p>Your organisation must have enough insurance cover for your activities, events, staff, premises, equipment, and vehicles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public liability (£5m) • employer’s liability cover if you employ staff (£10m) • property and equipment insurance against fire, theft, loss and damage • vehicle and driver insurance if vehicles are owned or driven and 	<p>Submit copies of insurance certificates</p>	<p>Documents should be current and for appropriate amounts.</p> <p>Not all insurance will be required for all activities.</p> <p>New organisations will not have insurance in place but must demonstrate that they have adequate cover before the agreement with the Council is signed.</p> <p>Pass Appropriate policies in place.</p> <p>Partial</p>

Appendix C

Criteria	Standard required	Evidence	Scoring guidance
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> professional indemnity if you give advice or training to members of the public (£5m). 		<p>Policies in place, but cover is not adequate.</p> <p>Fail Appropriate policies are not in place</p>

Project Assessment

This section sets out the criteria we used to assess project proposals. **The Council did not consider funding any project which scores less than half the available score in any section. This was set out in the prospectus.** Some grant themes specific requirements (set out in the prospectus) - for example:

- quality mark standards
- registration with a regulatory body
- food hygiene standards.

The total number of scores available for each question were as follows:

Criteria	Max Score
Service delivery	20
Track record	10
Demonstrates local connections	15
Service co-design	5
Quality assurance	10
Community cohesion and Equality and Diversity	15
Value for money	10
Outcomes	15
TOTAL	100

Appendix C

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
Service delivery	<p>Your bid must show that the arrangements you are proposing can deliver the service effectively. You will need to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A description of the project, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What the activities/ services are ○ Plans for delivery – where, how, how frequently, numbers of beneficiaries (these may be used to set your key performance indicators (KPIs) if your bid is successful) ○ Project governance and measurement arrangements ○ How you will reach your target beneficiaries ○ Any specific protected characteristic group(s) that your project would support ○ Geographic area targeted. • Details of any partnership arrangements. These may be informal links to other services or more formal consortium arrangements • Details of why you think your project is needed, such as local research and user feedback 	Question	<p>Project description (10 points max)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear description of your project’s activities, including when, where and how they will be delivered • Geographical area and rationale, • Target residents and rationale, including any protected characteristic group(s) that your project would specifically support. <p>Partnership arrangements (5 points max)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there is a formal partnership or consortium, a clear outline of who will deliver the project (including details of partnership working if appropriate), information on each partner and their role in the project • Evidence of informal partnership links • Added value of partnership 	20

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Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of how your proposal will achieve the priority set out in the prospectus • Evidence that appropriate standards, checks and training will be in place (e.g., food hygiene, DBS checks). 		<p>arrangements articulated.</p> <p>Demonstration of need (5 points max)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local research/user feedback • Local published data (Census, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment etc) • National data • Link to MCGP priority, with clear link between activity and priority. 	
Track record	<p>You must be able to show that your organisation has a track record of effective delivery of the type of service you want us to fund. If your organisation is new, you must be able to show that the individuals involved in it have a successful track record in other organisations and your organisation has clear ability to demonstrate capacity and skills to deliver services successfully</p>	Question	<p>Experience (with examples as evidence) should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering projects similar to the proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ activity ○ complexity ○ size ○ value ○ funder of previous projects. • Staff have the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver the project effectively • The organisation has the skills and capacity to deliver 	10

Appendix C

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
			<p>the project successfully</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting monitoring and reporting requirements • Achievement of outcomes and outputs, in relation to agreed service targets, or evidence of impact of previous work • Managing project budgets similar to that of the proposed service. 	
Demonstrates local connections	<p>How will your proposal demonstrate local connections? You will need to demonstrate your ability to reach residents and communities in Tower Hamlets and that you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good knowledge of the neighbourhoods, needs, services and demographics where you work (or are planning to work) • experience of delivering services to Tower Hamlets residents • have a local base or location from where you will deliver the proposed project • working links and connections with other 	Question	<p>Evidence of local connections through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local presence • track record of local delivery • impact locally (outcomes of previous work) • beneficiary feedback • research of local needs • partnerships with local organisations (VCS or public) • engagement with local structures such as appropriate forum or network membership. 	15

Appendix C

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	organisations in Tower Hamlets or potential partnership arrangements (from all sectors).			
Service co-design	<p>How will your proposal include co-design with residents? We expect organisations to work with residents and other stakeholders towards improving the service over the period of funding. This may include revising the outcomes to be achieved and changing the way the service is delivered.</p> <p>You will need to describe how you will engage with residents and other stakeholders to co-design improvements to your service.</p>	Question	<p>Plan should include a process for meaningful engagement of residents and other stakeholders in service improvement through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • user involvement including feedback, focus groups etc • working with non-beneficiaries and partners • needs and trends analysis <p>They should refer to basic principles of co-design:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inclusion • respect • participation. • outcomes focused. 	5
Quality assurance	You must show that you have the appropriate quality standards in place, including appropriate certification to deliver your proposed service/project. You will need to provide evidence of how you will assess the quality of the project	Question	<p>Appropriate Quality Assurance standards that are specific and appropriate to the project you wish to deliver.</p> <p>Evidence of the quality assurance framework/processes</p>	10

Appendix C

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	to ensure it is achieving its outcomes.		that will be in place for your organisation to assess the quality of the specific project being delivered.	

Appendix C

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
Community Cohesion and Equality and Diversity	<p>You will need to be able to show how your service promotes community cohesion and addresses inequalities impacting those with protected characteristics. This will be in relation to both recruitment of beneficiaries and delivery of effective services to beneficiaries.</p> <p>The borough has a commitment to be an anti-racist place, and you can find more info here. How will your project address race inequality in the borough? If your project is specifically targeting people with one or more protected equalities characteristics, you should explain why there is a particular need to do this.</p> <p>How will your project contribute towards community cohesion?</p>	Question	<p>Evidence of consultation with people with protected characteristics.</p> <p>Proposals to minimise barriers to potential users of services, including recruitment and referral methods.</p> <p>Proposals to monitor equalities impact, including in relation to beneficiary outcomes and project contribution to making Tower Hamlets an anti-racist borough.</p> <p>If appropriate, sufficient information to justify or explain why the project will be targeting specific groups/sections of the local community.</p> <p>Clear evidence that your proposal will strengthen community cohesion and help reduce poverty and support residents during the cost-of-living crisis.</p>	15
Value for money	How do you know that the service you are proposing offers good value for money? Have you compared it with similar	Question	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realistic costs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ adequate funding for proposed activity 	10

Appendix C

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	services? Does your service bring something extra which other services would not be able to provide?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ all project staff paid at least London Living Wage ○ cost comparisons. ● clear explanation of how costs have been assessed ● leverage of other resources such as volunteers and in-kind support. 	
Outcomes	There must be evidence in your bid that you will be able to demonstrate change using outcomes and indicators which are SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-related.	Question	Outcomes must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● relevant to the specification ● achievable from the proposed activities ● have relevant indicators and measures 	15

Assessment Process

The organisational assessment and project assessment were carried out by Council officers.

They involved the following process:

Stage 1

Council officers assessed the organisation's submission against the organisational criteria outlined above. If a submission:

- secured a pass score then the organisation's applications for projects moved on to Stage 2 where a project assessment was carried out.
- if the organisation assessment received a 'fail' in the three mandatory areas then it was moderated by a senior manager in the Council. This is to ensure that the assessment is accurate and fair.

- if the moderator agrees with the 'fail' score then the organisation did not move to the project assessment stage
- if the moderator changes the assessment to a 'pass' than the organisation application will progress to stage 2.

Stage 2

- Two Council officers assessed and scored the project application
- the applications were scored against the scoring criteria outlined above
- If there was a difference in the scores of the two Council officers of more than 10% then a senior manager moderated the two scores to reach an agreed score.

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 1 – Scheme A: Advice, Information and Crisis Support							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8705 9605804	East End Citizens Advice Bureau (Account3 Ltd, Age UK East London, Bromley By Bow Centre deafPLUS, Breakthrough Deaf Hearing Integration, Island Advice Centre, Legal Advice Centre (University House) Limehouse Project, Praxis Community Projects, St Hilda’s East, St Peter’s Bengali Association, Tower Hamlets Law Centre, Toynbee Hall, Women’s Inclusion Team)	Large (£250k+)	Advice Tower Hamlets	Advice Tower Hamlets provides free, confidential, independent, quality assured-advice to help Tower Hamlets residents resolve their cost-of-living issues relating to welfare benefits, housing, money/debt, employment, immigration, consumer, education, community care, family and personal issues at a generalist/specialist level. Citizens Advice Tower Hamlets leads the partnership with 13 local advice agencies.	Boroughwide	720,000	2,460,000

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 1 – Scheme A: Advice, Information and Crisis Support							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8854 9605953	First Love Foundation	Large (£250k+)	First Love Foundation Advice and Advocacy Service	Tower Hamlets residents will have access to our AQS-accredited welfare rights advice and advocacy service in person, by telephone and through community outreach. We will explore why each individual and their household is in financial difficulty, what other challenges or crisis they face, and work with them to effect solutions.	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500
8662 9605761	The Felix Project	Large (£250k+)	Supporting residents of Tower Hamlets who are in Crisis to get access to nutritious food	Providing nutritious food and meals for 40,000 people in Tower Hamlets – each year – who are currently facing food insecurity and hunger. Working with 80 community partners in the borough to help people in crisis.	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500
8998 9606097	Stifford Centre Limited	Large (£250k+)	Advice and Crisis Support Project	The Stifford Centre will deliver a comprehensive 'Advice and Crisis Support Project', offering welfare benefit, debt, housing, employment & financial advice, emotional support, and peer-mentoring to local	Limehouse Mile End Poplar Shadwell St Dunstan's St Katherine's and Wapping	30,000	102,500

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 1 – Scheme A: Advice, Information and Crisis Support							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				residents. Additionally, the project will manage a 'Crisis Support Fund' for emergency assistance, actively addressing the cost-of-living crisis.	Stepney Green Whitechapel		
9072 9606171	Community of Refugees from Vietnam - East London	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Support and Advice for Older People in Vietnamese and Chinese Communities	The "Older People Vietnamese and Chinese Project" offers crucial support and guidance to the Vietnamese and Chinese communities in Tower Hamlets. We provide comprehensive assistance to individuals aged over 50, delivering valuable advice and information. Our services are available five days a week at Old Poplar Library, London E14 6RN.	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Blackwall and Cubitt Town Boroughwide Bow East Bow West Bromley North Bromley South Island Gardens Lansbury Limehouse Mile End Poplar Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Whitechapel	20,000	68,333

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 1 – Scheme A: Advice, Information and Crisis Support							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
9054 9606153	Wapping Bangladesh Association (Bangladesh Youth Movement, Tower Hamlets Parents Centre, Boundary Community School, Wapping Noorani Masjid & Community Centre)	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Tower Hamlets Bangladeshi & BAME-Led Advice Forum	Tower Hamlets Bangladeshi & BAME-Led Advice Forum is a consortium of trusted and embedded local charities, led by Wapping Bangladesh Association, working together to bring quality information, advice, guidance and support to people at risk during the Cost-of-Living Crisis. Our work focuses in the south-west locality of Tower Hamlets.	Shadwell Spitalfields and Banglatown St Katherine's and Wapping Weavers Whitechapel	70,000	239,167
						900,000	3,075,000

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8866 9605965	St Hilda's East Community Centre	Large (£250k+)	Young People's Development Programme	St Hilda's East Young People's Programme is an inspirational initiative designed to support children and young people to reach their full potential. Through weekly activities including sports, arts, and reflective sessions; the programme focuses on improving young people's mental health, resilience and steering them away from anti-social behaviour and crime.	Whitechapel Spitalfields and Banglatown Weavers Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green)	33,180	113,365
9024 9606123	Limehouse Welfare Association	Small (less than £150k)	LWA Community Language Bengali and Arabic Support Programme	The aim of this project is to provide Community Language, Bengali and Arabic classes, 4 days a week (8 hours), 40 weeks each year, enhancing the achievement of 75 disadvantaged students in Key Stages 1,2 and 3. These classes will improve students' self-confidence, cognitive development, educational attainment and Community cohesion.	Poplar Limehouse Lansbury Mile End Shadwell Stepney Green St Dunstan's	22,400	76,533

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8862 9605961	St Margaret's House	Large (£250k+)	The Children's Making Tree	The project empowers Tower Hamlets children to take part in enriching holiday activities in a variety of arts disciplines (circus, art, drama, spoken word). Sessions improve children's confidence in their abilities and increase their cultural capital to help them pursue diverse activities outside of school to support their academic achievement.	Boroughwide	5,156	17,616
9063 9606162	Udichi Shilpi Gosthi	Small (less than £150k)	UDICHI Bengali Mother Tongue Project	Project provides mother tongue study support and community education for 300 disadvantaged Bengali children and young people in Tower Hamlets who will learn to read, write and speak Bengali and achieve Tower Hamlets Community Language Certificate. Boosts community cohesion via arts and cultural activities broadcast on Bengali media (TV, radio)	Boroughwide	18,768	64,124
8807 9605906	Conductive Music	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Music Beyond Imagination	Music Beyond Imagination (MBI), is a cutting-edge music-technology-led	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				educational project for 1475 Y4-Y8 SEN students across 8 Special, Mainstream and Alternative Provision schools and in Tower Hamlets. MBI supports music creation by empowering children, bridging educational gaps, showcasing career pathways, and enabling growth for Tower Hamlets' youth.			
9028 9606127	SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets	Large (£250k+)	Rainbow Links	A SEND focused programme of activities providing stimulating activities for children and young people, support and peer network for parents and carers, speech and language training and family trips to enhance the opportunities available for SEND children.	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500
9056 9606155	Wapping Bangladesh Association	Medium (£150k-£250k)	A Bright Future - Wapping After-School Children Education Project	WBA's After School Children's Education Project is aimed at raising the educational achievements of academically underachieving Bangladeshi children from poorer and disadvantaged backgrounds. We will achieve	St Katherine's and Wapping	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				our project aim by delivering the following programme of activities using the following learning interventions that includes Mother Tongue Education and Study Support Learning.			
9013 9606112	Young and Talented	Small (less than £150k)	Triple Talent Enrichment Programme	Weekly, high-quality, performing-arts training for 6-16-year-olds. The free sessions will enable children from marginalised backgrounds to have long-term engagement with activities which support good mental health and wellbeing; develop personal and practical skills; enrich curriculum learning; and provide access to the infrastructure required to progress into arts/culture-related education and employment.	Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's)	25,000	85,417
8990 9606089	Newark Youth London	Large (£250k+)	Girls in Action	Our project aims to widen access to extracurricular activities for girls and young women so they develop their confidence and lifeskills;	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				make them resilient and enable them to participate in social action projects and other learning opportunities so they develop their leadership, communication and organisational skills.			
8896 9605995	Four Corners	Large (£250k+)	Cameraworks: Young People’s Photography Workshops	“Cameraworks” will provide 168 young Tower Hamlets residents with the opportunity to take part in photography workshops and creative projects, improving their educational attainment and also supporting their wider personal development.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333
9044 9606143	Weavers Community Forum (WCF)	Small (less than £150k)	Active Youth Project	Active Youth Project is to help inspire, activate & motivate young people to learn about themselves, others, and Society, through non-formal education activities which combine enjoyment, challenge and learning.	Weavers Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green)	21,903	74,835
9035 9606134	Hornafrik Integration Projects Ltd	Small (less than £150k)	E14 BAME Children and Young People Educational	E14 BAME Children and Young People Educational Attainment Project will support Children and Young people from disadvantaged	Island Gardens Blackwall and Cubitt Town Poplar Lansbury	13,250	45,271

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
			Attainment Project	households for timely intervention in access to extracurricular activities and after school provision.			
8937 9606036	Tower Hamlets Parents Centre	Small (less than £150k)	THPC Saturday Study Support Programme	This Project will deliver a 3-hour weekly Study Support Session on a Saturday morning for 40 weeks each year that help improve the attainment of 75 disadvantaged local young people at Key Stages 1 and 2.	St Katherine's and Wapping Whitechapel Stepney Green St Dunstan's Spitalfields and Banglatown Weavers	10,369	35,427
9009 9606108	Toyhouse Libraries Association of Tower Hamlets - Toyhouse	Small (less than £150k)	Accelerating Education for Pre-School aged children via Community Toy Library involvement.	By supporting a network of community based Toy Libraries facilitated by a mix of parent volunteers and staff, Toyhouse will enable parents & pre-schoolers to benefit from weekly Play & Learn sessions, enabling children to develop speech, communication, social interaction and Early Learning skills before they enter formal educational settings.	Boroughwide	14,992	51,223
8913 9606012	Women's Inclusive Team	Large (£250k+)	Maangaar (Young People - SEN Support)	This project will target children aged 6 to 10 with Special Educational Needs	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333

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Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				and Disabilities (SEND) in LBTH boroughwide, who have limited after-school provisions. Maangaar (meaning 'unique child' in Somali) will create positive learning opportunities to enrich their development and their parents, ultimately improving their education and mental well-being.			
9020 9606119	Ashaadibi Education and Cultural Centre	Small (less than £150k)	Aim Higher ~ Edify	The Aim-Higher Edify project aims to promote community-based study support and language development for children and young people in Tower Hamlets, delivering boroughwide. This project will accelerate education and growth through after-school clubs, language classes, and youth-work opportunities, leading to improved academic achievement and future success for participants in LBTH.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333
8758 9605857	Westferry Community Organisation	Small (less than £150k)	Education Matters	Education Matters is a community-based initiative, which will deliver	Canary Wharf	20,000	68,333

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Theme 2 – Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				educational/learning activities to children and young people in the Canary Wharf area. This will consist of after-school/evening and/or weekend clubs for children, to assist in reading/writing, maths/arithmetic, and other curriculum/extra-curriculum-based learning. Also, weekend sessions for young adults providing life skills.			
						350,018	1,195,893

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Theme 2 – Scheme B: Lifelong Learning							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8967 9606066	Age UK East London	Large (£250k+)	Digital Buddy	Digital Buddies will build the skills, confidence and motivation of digitally excluded older people, using a proven model, enabling them to get to grips with new technologies and use them safely and skilfully. It represents the best opportunity to build their confidence, skills and ultimately resilience in a digital-first world.	Boroughwide	39,997	136,656
8700 9605799	East London Advanced Technology Training	Large (£250k+)	BOOST (Building On Our Skills Together) South West	BOOST South West provides accessible, entry-level ESOL classes to develop English language skills, digital inclusion, and preparation for lifelong learning for 300 migrants and refugees in SW Tower Hamlets, 2023-2027. Courses will be tailored to learners' lives and include classroom activities, visits to places of interest and community engagement activities.	Shadwell St Dunstan's Stepney Green Whitechapel	40,000	136,667

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Theme 2 – Scheme B: Lifelong Learning							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8934 9606033	ICM Foundation CIC	Small (less than £150k)	CORE News Community Newspaper	Adults with learning disabilities will develop skills and work towards a qualification to design and produce a tri-annual community newspaper, informing people of and reviewing activities to be distributed to community groups in London with the focus on reducing social isolation and increased participation through low cost or free activities.	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500
8996 9606095	Stifford Centre Limited	Large (£250k+)	BAME Women’s Empowerment Programme	Stifford Centre’s BAME Women’s Empowerment Programme empowers BAME women in Tower Hamlets through comprehensive ESOL classes, employability work and digital skills training. Our goal is to bridge socio-economic gaps and boost integration, confidence, and participation in the local economy.	Shadwell St Dunstan's St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Whitechapel	29,000	99,083
8929 9606028	deafPLUS	Large (£250k+)	Improving deaf and hard	A borough wide life long learning project that will	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500

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Theme 2 – Scheme B: Lifelong Learning							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
			of hearing residents English, Maths and digital skills	improve deaf and hard of hearing residents English and Maths and digital skills, reducing socio-economic deprivation in Tower Hamlets.			
8803 9605902	Social Action For Health	Large (£250k+)	Bengali Women's ESOL Walking Group	This project brings together Bengali women for a weekly walking group to enjoy some gentle movement, and practice conversational English, thus reducing isolation, improving physical and mental wellbeing and enabling more positive interaction with the wider community and services such as GPs and other health professionals.	Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Spitalfields and Banglatown Whitechapel	24,945	85,229
8974 9606073	Island House Community Centre	Medium (£150k-£250k)	DIGITAL DAY	Digital Day will develop the existing SKILLS project, providing 3 levels of support to digitally-excluded clients. Teaching basic digital skills and providing computer/internet access for necessary for life tasks	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

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Theme 2 – Scheme B: Lifelong Learning							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				that have moved online, supporting the digitally excluded, improving skills, reducing digital exclusion, and enabling access to health and social care.			
8715 9605814	Limehouse Project	Large (£250k+)	ESOL & Digital Training	Limehouse Project’s ESOL & Digital Training programme is a supportive coaching initiative funded by the Council which helps residents improve their command of the English language and basic digital skills. We hope to empower residents to improve their lives by learning new skills for life and life-long learning.	Limehouse Mile End Poplar St Dunstan's Stepney Green	25,000	85,417
8652 9605751	Quaker Social Action (BIA) (Carers Centre Tower Hamlets)	Large (£250k+)	Made of Money - helping carers to increase their resilience to online financial scams.	Quaker Social Action’s ‘Made of Money’ financial education and financial wellbeing team, partnering with Carers Centre, Tower Hamlets, will devise and deliver digital inclusion sessions for local people, predominantly carers, focussing specifically on	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

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Theme 2 – Scheme B: Lifelong Learning							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				helping people be aware of and have a much reduced risk of falling victim to online scams/fraud.			
8906 9606005	Bromley By Bow Centre	Large (£250k+)	BOOST North East	Through Boost North East, the Bromley by Bow Centre is providing non-accredited English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and digital inclusion classes alongside social mixing activities. The project will support people to become confident engaging with the local community, and services using English. 280 learners will be supported.	Bow East Bow West Bromley North Bromley South Mile End	25,000	85,417
8677 9605776	LifeLine Community Projects	Large (£250k+)	Creative English	Creative English is a volunteer-led English language programme that teaches everyday English speaking to people from marginalised and minority groups who do not speak English as a first/main language. Delivered by faith and community groups,	Mile End Poplar Shadwell Whitechapel	25,000	85,417

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Theme 2 – Scheme B: Lifelong Learning							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				Creative English uses applied drama techniques to engage learners in a fun and welcoming environment.			
8936 9606035	Tower Hamlets Parents Centre	Small (less than £150k)	THPC Digital Inclusion Programme for BAME Women	This Project will deliver a 36-hour Computer Training Programme that will improve the Skills, Employment Readiness and Inclusion of 140 local disadvantaged women from BAME Communities.	Spitalfields and Banglatown St Dunstan's St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Weavers Whitechapel	12,000	41,000
9021 9606120	Ashaadibi Education and Cultural Centre	Small (less than £150k)	Aim Higher e~Adult Lifelong Learning	The e-Adult Lifelong Learning project aims to promote digital inclusion, language skills, and lifelong learning in Tower Hamlets to the BAME community. Through English language classes and digital skills training, it will reduce digital exclusion and improve the confidence and aspirations of marginalized and underrepresented residents of LBTH.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333
						350,942	1,199,053

Theme 3 – Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
9036 9606135	Hornafrik Integration Projects Ltd	Small (less than £150k)	E14 BAME Skills Development and Employment Project	Our project aims to work with the hard-to reach, excluded BAME, mainly Somali and other African communities who live in 3 wards in Tower Hamlets, who are long-term unemployed and/or economically inactive, including individuals with no formal or limited educational qualifications.	Blackwall and Cubitt Town Island Gardens Lansbury Poplar	20,670	70,623
9047 9606146	Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Improving Employability Through Volunteering	Our project will support socially excluded residents from across the borough, including those who are further away from the labour market, to volunteer in local voluntary, community and statutory organisations, where they will gain workplace experience, training, references and improve their employability, skills and confidence.	Boroughwide	39,250	134,104
8701 9605800	East London Advanced	Large (£250k+)	Tower Hamlets Community Works	TH Community Works is an innovative, holistic programme of employability	Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's)	30,000	102,500

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Theme 3 – Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
	Technology Training			skills training, personal development, one-to-one support, volunteering and work experience to support unemployed refugees and migrant residents of Tower Hamlets into work. It will empower participants to build a career and navigate the UK job market independently.	Limehouse Poplar Shadwell St Dunstan's Stepney Green Weavers Whitechapel		
8671 9605770	Providence Row	Large (£250k+)	Employability & Progression (E&P) programme helping homeless people get closer to, or into, employment	Our Employability & Progression (E&P) project will support 110 extremely vulnerable, disadvantaged and excluded homeless people in Tower Hamlets, annually. Through our numerous tried-and-tested learning, training, peer mentoring, work-placement and employment opportunities we will help people get off, and stay off, the streets and begin leading more independent, self-sustaining lives.	Boroughwide Spitalfields and Banglatown	25,000	85,417

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Theme 3 – Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8952 9606051	Stepney Community Trust (SCT)	Small (less than £150k)	“Employment Pathways”	“Employment Pathways” will develop training and support programmes for local people, farthest away from the job market, to improve employability and become better able to compete for jobs; the programme will comprise skills training, 1-1 mentoring, practical job search activities and work experience to progress along ‘employment pathways’.	Boroughwide Spitalfields and Banglatown St Dunstan's Stepney Green Whitechapel	25,000	85,417
8964 9606063	Working Well Trust	Large (£250k+)	Upskill Works	We will support people with lived experience of mental health, learning disabilities and/or neurodiversity to address the barriers to progressing towards employment, to improve their employment prospects, to achieve and sustain their employment goals.	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
8716 9605815	Limehouse Project	Large (£250k+)	More New Horizons	Limehouse Project’s ‘More New Horizons’ project seeks to support local women to gain the skills to get into work and/or to begin to run their own online businesses which	Limehouse Mile End Poplar St Dunstan's Stepney Green	25,000	85,417

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Theme 3 – Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				can be managed around a work-life balance and household responsibilities.			
8816 9605915	Circle Community	Large (£250k+)	Circle Community's Back Your Future @ Canary Wharf employability programme for young people	Back Your Future @ Canary Wharf will provide holistic employability support to 495 NEET young people. Access to work experience, job-seeking skills, sector knowledge, wellbeing support and entry level jobs with Canary Wharf employers will provide them with the knowledge, networks and confidence to find, sustain, and progress in work.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333
9080 9606179	Account3 Ltd	Large (£250k+)	Jobs for the Girls - Employability for Marginalised Women of Tower Hamlets	This project will provide unemployed women including returners with multi lingual support to plan their futures through offer of MATRIX accredited career guidance, training and support to better understand the jobs market and make the right decisions to get into paid work that offers career progression and stable employment.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 3 – Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8885 9605984	Osmani Trust	Large (£250k+)	Pathway to Employment	We are seeking to deliver an education, employment and training-focused project to reduce barriers to employment for NEET young people in Tower Hamlets. We will develop their confidence and employability skills, help them gain qualifications and work experience and support them with progressing into education, employment or training.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333
8742 9605841	Leaders in Community	Large (£250k+)	Youth and Community Social Action Hub	The project will create a safe and inclusive hub for youth and community social action work placements, which will help develop campaigns on equity and employment by addressing barriers to progress, and raising aspirations for young people and older community members, particularly for people from Black, Asian, and Multi-Ethnicity backgrounds.	Lansbury Poplar	20,000	68,333
9077 9606176	Streets of Growth	Large (£250k+)	Inspire Talent: Youth	We will support 16-25s Young adults who face complex barriers to work – showcasing	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333

Theme 3 – Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
			employability programme	their abilities and ensuring successful employment/training transitions. Engaging participants through outreach, we will develop their skills through strategic employer partnerships and a vibrant programme of life skills/work training, career mentoring, work experience and viable career pathways.			
8957 9606056	The Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM)	Medium (£150k-£250k)	“Opening Doors” [The Ethnically Diverse Women’s Engagement Initiative]	“Opening Doors” is an initiative customised to support those residents furthest from the labour market i.e. females from Bangladeshi and ethnically diverse communities who are regularly excluded from development opportunities; they will build confidence, work-related skills and experience through employment-driven training and work development activities to become ready for work.	Shadwell Spitalfields and Banglatown St Dunstan's St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Weavers Whitechapel	20,000	68,333

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 3 – Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
9017 9606116	Mind in Tower Hamlets, Newham and Redbridge	Large (£250k+)	Mindful Barista Project	The Mindful Barista Project will support people living with mental health to access employment training and experience to become a Barista and gain work experience in local cafes. We will support up to 20 people per year to gain experience of working in a cafe and becoming a Barista.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333
						329,920	1,127,226

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Theme 3 – Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8983 9606082	Magic Me	Large (£250k+)	CREATIVE MIX	CREATIVE MIX: a year round programme of relationship building, arts workshops and creative events in and around Bethnal Green that will bring older and younger residents together, increasing individuals' confidence and wellbeing, building connections across different faiths, cultures and backgrounds, through creativity and the arts.	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Weavers	39,958	136,523
8882 9605981	Osmani Trust	Large (£250k+)	OC Active – Community Sports & Health Project	Our project will provide access to regular sports provision for BAME communities including young girls, women, young adults and men over 45; meeting their family, cultural and religious needs and enabling them to participate fully. The programme will support local people to become Volunteer Champions promoting sports and healthy living.	Boroughwide	40,000	136,667

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Theme 3 – Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8673 9605772	Vallance Community Sports Association	Medium (£150k-£250k)	SEND Health & Wellbeing Project (Adults)	A programme of weekly sports and physical activities and a social club for Adults (18 years and above) with special educational needs and disabilities for the purpose of increasing sports participation, improving health and wellbeing (including mental health), and reducing loneliness, isolation and exclusion.	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
8644 9605743	Platform Cricket (Tower Hamlets Youth Sport Foundation)	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Platform Cricket Hubs: Bethnal Green, Bow, Isle of Dogs, Poplar, Stepney, Wapping & Whitechapel	Establish "pop up" cricket clubs at 7 locations across the borough, providing access for all children but particularly under-represented groups such as girls, ethnic minorities, and those from low-income backgrounds. Sessions will utilise cricket to support personal and social development outcomes.	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
9050 9606149	Half Moon Young People's Theatre	Large (£250k+)	Professional Theatre and Inclusive Participatory Drama for Young People	Professional theatre shows and inclusive participatory drama opportunities in an accessible venue and in Children and Family Centres around the borough. Activity	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

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Theme 3 – Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				is for ages 0-18 (or 25 for disabled young people) from all backgrounds and abilities from across Tower Hamlets, with free access support for anyone with needs/disabilities.			
9016 9606115	Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre (Also Known as ELMV Shadwell Basin Project)	Large (£250k+)	Discover Adventure Sport Project	The 'Discover Adventure Sports Project' will use outdoor and adventure activities as a vehicle to, both increase the engagement of girls in sports and improve health outcomes for inactive young people. It will target under-represented communities to address the inequalities that exist in the access to adventure sports.	Boroughwide	9,294	31,755
8875 9605974	Outside Edge Theatre Company	Medium (£150k-£250k)	East London Drop-in Drama and Write Now	East London Drop-in Drama and East London Write Now will provide free, accessible arts-based activities for vulnerable Tower Hamlets residents affected by addiction that will help improve their health and wellbeing and prevent relapse.	Boroughwide Spitalfields and Banglatown	25,000	85,417

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Theme 3 – Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8752 9605851	Wapping Youth Services	Small (less than £150k)	FitLife: Wellness Through Sports	FitLife: Wellness Through Sports initiative is a project that promotes improved health and well-being of residents. Through targeted activities, the project aims to foster engagement, physical and mental wellness, and a sense of pride in the diverse cultural community for all the residents of Tower Hamlets.	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Limehouse Mile End Shadwell Spitalfields and Banglatown St Dunstan's St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Weavers Whitechapel	25000	85,417
8897 9605996	Four Corners	Large (£250k+)	East End Stories	“East End Stories” will provide seventy-two Tower Hamlets residents with the opportunity to participate in a programme of training and cultural activities which will culminate in them making films about their local community’s history and culture.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333
9064 9606163	Udichi Shilpi Gosthi	Small (less than £150k)	Udichi Performing	UDICHI Performing Arts/Festival Project works	Bethnal Green East (formerly	19,000	64,917

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Theme 3 – Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
			Arts and Festival Project	with Tower Hamlets Bangladeshi community increasing access and participation in cultural events focusing on Bengali & other cultures/heritages. Project provides quality teaching in music, dance, literature to 420 children/young people over 3.5 years and also delivers X 18 Festivals for 7,000 Tower Hamlets residents.	Bethnal Green) Boroughwide Bow East Bromley North Island Gardens Limehouse Mile End Poplar Shadwell Spitalfields and Banglatown Stepney Green Weavers Whitechapel		
9086 9606185	Bromley By Bow Community Organisation	Small (less than £150k)	BBBCO Sporting Community	BBBCO Sporting Community will provide sporting sessions to young people to improve their physical and mental health; develop their personal skills and social connections; act as a diversionary hook away from negative activities.	Bromley South	15,000	51,250
8860 9605959	Kayd Somali Arts & Culture	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Tower Hamlets in Focus: Somali Arts Project	Celebrate and showcasing Somali arts and culture in Tower Hamlets through a series of engaging events during the Somali Week Festival. Featuring a family	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's)	20,000	68,333

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Theme 3 – Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				weekend, a captivating documentary highlighting the historical significance of Somalis in East London, and a commissioned British-Somali play. Preserving cultural heritage & promoting artistic expression and storytelling.	Blackwall and Cubitt Town Boroughwide Bow East Bow West Bromley North Bromley South Canary Wharf Limehouse Mile End Poplar Shadwell Spitalfields and Banglatown St Dunstan's St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Whitechapel		
9087 9606186	Ocean Youth Connexions	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Physical Health and fitness programmes	We want to continue deliver a Taekwondo Session for young girls from the BAME communities, a BAME men's cycling activity and a weekend football programme that addresses social exclusions	St Dunstan's	20,000	68,333
8703 9605802	South Poplar and Limehouse	Small (less than £150k)	SPLASH Sports and Play clubs	In England's most densely populated borough, where	Limehouse Poplar	20,000	68,333

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Theme 3 – Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
	Action for Secure Housing (SPLASH)			41.8% of kids face weight challenges, and 88% live in flats. SPLASH Play offers free supervised play and sport provisions for children aged 5-13. Our dedicated playworkers nurture creativity, empowering kids to explore their imagination, learn, and flourish in a safe, friendly space.			
						328,252	1,121,529

Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
9032 9606131	SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets	Large (£250k+)	Growing Together	A health and mental wellbeing improvement programme targeting older people through tackling loneliness, inactivity and isolation. The project will reduce digital isolation to give older people greater access to services and convenience and imbed strategies to improve intergenerational relations through a volunteering scheme with local young students.	Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping Whitechapel	40,000	136,667
8942 9606041	Globe Community Project	Small (less than £150k)	Wellbeing for Elders	A powerful mindfulness-based programme serving over-60s at risk of severe loneliness and isolation in Tower Hamlets supporting them to increase connection with others and themselves and lead richer, more active and fulfilling lives. Participants improve their	Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's)	39,903	136,335

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Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				resilience using proven tools to improve awareness and agency over thoughts, emotions and behaviour.			
8969 9606068	Age UK East London	Large (£250k+)	Activity Buddy	Our tried and tested, volunteer-led Activity Buddy scheme uses both 1:1 and group sessions to support older people to build the trust and confidence to get out into the community, connect with others and become more active and informed.	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
8868 9605967	English National Ballet	Large (£250k+)	Dancing East	Dancing East is English National Ballet’s programme of creative ballet classes for participants aged over 50 living in Tower Hamlets, and is designed to improve physical and mental wellbeing through dance in community centres across the borough.	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Blackwall and Cubitt Town Canary Wharf Lansbury Limehouse Poplar Shadwell Spitalfields and Banglatown Weavers Whitechapel	25,000	85,417

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Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
9073 9606172	Community of Refugees from Vietnam - East London	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Vietnamese and Chinese Lunch and Social Club	The Vietnamese & Chinese Lunch Club (VCLC) provides healthy food, a lunch club, a range of social activities and promotes healthy living in all forms for older people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Blackwall and Cubitt Town Boroughwide Bow East Bow West Bromley North Bromley South Island Gardens Lansbury Limehouse Mile End Poplar Shadwell Stepney Green Whitechapel	25,000	85,417
8973 9606072	Island House Community Centre	Medium (£150k-£250k)	SENIORS	The Seniors Project addresses loneliness and isolation in older people within Tower Hamlets through regular initiatives covering physical and mental health, social needs, and practical skills. Extending our existing	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

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Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				programme will increase the range of social and health activities available to improve mental and physical health amongst the over-fifties.			
9002 9606101	Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Befriending for Isolated Older People	A free befriending and advocacy service for older people experiencing loneliness and social isolation in Tower Hamlets through one-to-one befriending visits in people’s homes, group outings enabling people to meet others in a similar situation, and telephone befriending for additional support particularly at times of crisis	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
9052 9606151	Wapping Bangladesh Association	Medium (£150k-£250k)	Active Plus - Wapping BME Older Person's Day Club	WBA’s Older Person’s Healthy Living Club is a community-based day club run at the Wapping’s Youth Club that will a Lunch Club Programme and a variety of social and cultural socialisation activities that bringing improvements to the physical and emotional	Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping	25,000	85,417

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Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				well-being to vulnerable Bangladeshi and BME older people.			
9004 9606103	East London Mosque Trust	Large (£250k+)	The Senior Citizens Project	The Senior Citizens Project at East London Mosque supports elderly men and women over 50 to tackle loneliness and isolation and improve their health and well-being through social activity, exercise, and awareness sessions in a culturally sensitive space and gives access to a healthy meal through a health cafe	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Whitechapel	25,000	85,417
8979 9606078	Methodist Church Tower Hamlets	Large (£250k+)	Zacchaeus Health and Wellbeing for Older People	Zacchaeus aims to provide a range of wrap around/holistic offers of advice, information, access to benefits, support groups and health, social and therapeutic sessions to reduce isolation for older people. Aiming to promote healthy lifestyles, increase opportunities for physical activity participation, working towards a better mutual	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bow East	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				understanding of different cultures.			
8864 9605963	St Hilda's East Community Centre	Large (£250k+)	Over 50's Feeling Good	The aim of Over 50s Feeling Good is to provide a programme of activity for older people which allows them to experience joy through taking part in exciting and challenging activity, fostering social connections, and improving their physical and mental health in an environment that is comfortable, safe and inclusive.	Boroughwide Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping Weavers	25,000	85,417
8632 9605731	Shadwell Trust	Small (less than £150k)	Bridging the Gap	Bridging the Gap will provide access to physical activity and mobility sessions to older people. The activities will be delivered from Tarling East Community Centre in partnership with Sonali Gardens, Linkage Plus and Tower Hamlets Community Housing. We also plan to run social club and activity classes for older people.	Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Whitechapel	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8956 9606055	Somali Senior Citizens Club	Small (less than £150k)	“Granby Hall Seniors’ Club”	Granby Hall Seniors’ Club will promote health and well-being of vulnerable local elders, particularly, but not exclusively, from the Somali community living in Tower Hamlets experiencing social isolation, economic deprivation and reduced independence by providing a programme of health and developmental activities at our Granby Hall Centre.	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
8903 9606002	Neighbours In Poplar	Large (£250k+)	Bengali Womens Holistic Project	Following extensive research by NIP, we have discovered that there is a lack of community provision for local elderly Bengali women. We therefore, propose to outreach to local elderly Bengali women residing in the E14 area to attend and take full advantage of the many services and activities from NIP.	Blackwall and Cubitt Town Canary Wharf Island Gardens Lansbury Limehouse Poplar	25,000	85,417
8826 9605925	Asian People's Disability Alliance	Large (£250k+)	Can you See Us - Standing	This is a Daycare & Development Project for Older women with	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green)	20,000	68,333

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Theme 4 – Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
			Up for Older People	Disabilities and long term Health Conditions. By supporting their physical, emotional, social, and environmental needs, we may improve the quality of life for older persons with impairments and health issues.	Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Spitalfields and Banglatown Weavers		
						399,903	1,366,339

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

Appendix D

Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8843 9605942	Sister Circle	Large (£250k+)	Healing Conversations	Healing Conversations will provide 85 minoritised mums of pre-school children/survivors of gender-based violence with complex needs with specialist, culturally competent, trauma-informed counselling delivered in community settings, in multiple languages. The project will: improve mental health, connect women to wider sources of support essential to health and wellbeing, reduce health inequalities.	Boroughwide	36,403	124,377
8932 9606031	deafPLUS	Large (£250k+)	Improving the Health and Wellbeing of the deaf and hard of hearing community	A borough wide health and wellbeing project that will address health inequalities for deaf and hard of hearing residents, address their mental health issues and enable them to make healthy lifestyle choices.	Boroughwide	40,000	136,667
8857 9605956	Body & Soul	Large (£250k+)	You Are Not Alone	We will expand delivery of	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				our You Are Not Alone (YANA) suicide-prevention programme for young people (aged 16-30) most at risk of suicide in Tower Hamlets, addressing increasing demand and complex needs, particularly among marginalised communities that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic and rising cost of living.			
8858 9605957	Carers Centre Tower Hamlets (London Buddhist Centre)	Large (£250k+)	Building Resilience and Resourcefulness for Unpaid Carers	Carers will have access to a full range of therapies, respite, and learning opportunities including, wellness days; art and creative activities; practical workshops on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle; and courses delivered by professionals to develop the skills required to effectively manage their caring role; and look after themselves.	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
8905 9606004	Bromley By Bow Centre	Large (£250k+)	Connect for Health	The Bromley by Bow Centre alongside local self-	Bow East Bow West Bromley North	25,000	85,417

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Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				employed sessional leads (physical activity coaches, artists, and facilitators) are supporting 80 people each year to participate in 160 activity sessions. Sessions are designed to improve health and connection, and include both broad open access activities and those targeted at specific audiences.	Bromley South Mile End		
8947 9606046	Canaan Project	Small (less than £150k)	Canaan Project: Young Women's Mentoring	Canaan Project's mission is to provide high quality youth work for young women where there is currently none. Our mentoring programme offers ongoing 1:1 support for young women with the aim of seeing them flourish, have broadened horizons and raised aspirations.	Blackwall and Cubitt Town Canary Wharf Island Gardens Mile End	25,000	85,417
8966 9606065	Mind in Tower Hamlets, Newham and Redbridge	Large (£250k+)	Our Voices Sakinah	Our Voices Sakinah is a co-produced, community-based project for diverse Muslim women to come	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				together to support each others mental health and wellbeing through creating a network of safe spaces. The project support women to have a greater voice and access services that promote positive mental health.			
8667 9605766	Toynbee Hall	Large (£250k+)	Playful Tower Hamlets - Nurturing Bodies and Minds	By creating edible gardens in underused areas of East London, Toynbee Hall aims to connect children to nature, tackle food poverty, and improve physical and mental wellbeing. We will provide outdoor play activities, forest school and weekend gardening sessions for 300 disadvantaged children and their families per year.	Spitalfields and Banglatown	25,000	85,417
8962 9606061	Working Well Trust	Large (£250k+)	Upskill Choices	The service will ensure people who have lived experience of mental health are able to access community opportunities to	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				support their health and wellbeing by supporting to identify the issues affecting them taking up opportunities, to address them and to support them to take that next step.			
8939 9606038	Tower Hamlets Parents Centre	Small (less than £150k)	Women’s Health Matters	The Women’s Health Matters Project in Tower Hamlets will improve the Physical and Mental Health of over 1050 disadvantaged Women in Tower Hamlets, by developing their knowledge, providing Fitness and Nutrition Activities and enhancing their Access to Services.	Spitalfields and Banglatown St Dunstan's St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Weavers Whitechapel	25,000	85,417
8940 9606039	elop (East London Out Project)	Large (£250k+)	Tower Hamlets LGBT+ Support	LGBT+ Community Support to enhance peer networks, lessen isolation and provide mental health crisis prevention support. Two facilitated social support groups targeting older people, people with mental health needs or other	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				disabilities, and LGBT asylum seekers and one to one mental health support providing individual mental health crisis prevention support.			
8663 9605762	Positive East	Large (£250k+)	One-to-one counselling for residents living with HIV and poor mental health	People living with HIV in the UK are at increased risk of anxiety and depression compared to the general public. Poor mental health can lead to non-adherence to antiretroviral therapy and reduced retention in HIV care. We will provide one-to-one counselling supporting people living with HIV in Tower Hamlets.	Boroughwide Whitechapel	16,222	55,425
8747 9605846	The Shadwell Community Project	Small (less than £150k)	Grow, Eat, Cook! Children's Café Project	We will provide access to free healthy meals for children especially from low income and ethnic minority backgrounds in Tower Hamlets. We will provide weekly sessions where children grow, cook and eat	Shadwell	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				meals together in a supportive, active environment and increase their health, fitness and wellbeing.			
8850 9605949	Vallance Community Sports Association	Medium (£150k-£250k)	SEND Health & Wellbeing Project (Young People)	A programme of weekly sports and physical activities and a social club for young people (8-25 years) with special educational needs and disabilities for the purpose of increasing sports participation, improving health and wellbeing (including mental health), and reducing loneliness, isolation and exclusion.	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
8736 9605835	Council Of Mosques - Tower Hamlets	Small (less than £150k)	Council of Mosque Healthy Mind, Healthy Lifestyle Reach	This healthy living project aims to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of BAME residents through a programme of community events, practical workshops and one-to-one health support, advice and information that will raise awareness of health risks,	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 4 – Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				illnesses and diseases most profound amongst the borough’s BAME communities.			
						392,625	1,341,473

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Theme 5 – Scheme A: Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality Groups and Social Economic Backgrounds							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
9048 9606147	Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets	Medium (£150k-£250k)	BAME Trustee Training and Matching (known as The METs Programme)	The programme will recruit, train and support residents from BAME communities (60% women) to become charity trustees. It will address inequality by empowering BAME residents to fulfil their potential and progress into leadership roles. Trained volunteers will be matched with local charities, creating trustee boards that better reflect our community.	Boroughwide	39,989	136,629
8961 9606060	Working Well Trust	Large (£250k+)	Upskill Reach	Opening up referral pathways and increasing access to opportunities for people with lived experience of mental health from Black, Asian and Multi-Ethnic Communities. We will support people to overcome barriers by addressing inequalities of access to support and resources.	Boroughwide	39,740	135,778

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 5 – Scheme A: Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality Groups and Social Economic Backgrounds							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8908 9606007	Real DPO Ltd	Large (£250k+)	All Inclusive Advice	Tailored and evidence-based advice and support for disabled individuals in Tower Hamlets. Offering holistic assistance, including guidance on independent travel, financial independence, community engagement, and access to local services. It will cater to clients from diverse ethnic, cultural, and faith backgrounds and collaborate with other organizations for referrals.	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500
8994 9606093	East London Advanced Technology Training	Large (£250k+)	Tower Hamlets Voices	Tower Hamlets Voices will foster community cohesion by bringing together people from diverse backgrounds in six local West Tower Hamlets hubs. The project aims to improve inclusion, access to support, and overall equality and will support 220 participants, mostly from Black, Asian, and multi-ethnic backgrounds and other marginalised groups annually.	Bethnal Green East (formerly Bethnal Green) Bethnal Green West (formerly St Peter's) Limehouse Mile End Shadwell Spitalfields and Banglatown St Dunstan's Stepney Green	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 5 – Scheme A: Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality Groups and Social Economic Backgrounds							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
					Weavers Whitechapel		
8722 9605821	Account3 Ltd	Large (£250k+)	Dare to Lead - leadership development for Minoritized women of Tower Hamlets	Dare to Lead is a customised and approved BAME Women focused leadership programme, which is accredited and externally verified and validated by the national examination board OCN, London. The leadership programme is designed to support BAME women who are in or aspire to leadership roles through a development programme	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417
8631 9605730	Council Of Mosques - Tower Hamlets	Small (less than £150k)	CoM Community Empowerment Project	CoM's Community Empowerment Project is new structured service designed and developed by CoM to address racism, faith-based abuse such as Islamophobia and discrimination faced by particularly by the borough's Muslim Communities areas of health, the criminal justice system, education, employment, immigration and politics experienced by	Boroughwide	25,000	85,417

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 5 – Scheme A: Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality Groups and Social Economic Backgrounds							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				the borough’s BAME communities.			
9029 9606128	SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets	Large (£250k+)	Stay Smart Stay Safe	The Stay Smart, Stay Safe project focuses on empowering girls and women to make positive choices in their personal lives that allow them to prosper and lead fulfilling lives.	Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping Whitechapel	25,000	85,417
9008 9606107	TOYHOUSE LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF TOWER HAMLETS	Small (less than £150k)	Empowering Communities:- Coming together, sharing their cultures, food and experiences	Toyhouse will facilitate a series of short courses for people from diverse backgrounds and 3 generations across equalities strands. 5 parents & pre-schoolers, plus older people, drawn together to discover and discuss, aiming to increase understanding and appreciation of different cultures - via food; games; traditions; clothing; beliefs; celebrations.	Bow West Bromley North Bromley South Mile End Poplar St Dunstan's Stepney Green	14,983	51,192
						224,712	767,767

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Theme 5 – Scheme B: Community Safety							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8883 9605982	Osmani Trust	Large (£250k+)	Schools Resilience Programme (SRP)	The Schools Resilience Programme (SRP) aims to educate and mentor vulnerable and at risk secondary school children on community safety and prevent them from becoming involved in crime, gangs and criminal exploitation. The project will develop their resilience, critical thinking skills and emotional intelligence so they make informed choices.	Boroughwide	40,000	136,667
8696 9605795	Step Forward (Tower Hamlets)	Large (£250k+)	Being Heard	Our Being Heard project offers a programme of preventative, early intervention activities to help keep vulnerable young people aged 11-25 safe, free from harm and prevent them being exploited. It also provides specialist support to young people affected by sexual violence to help them feel safe, cope and recover.	Boroughwide	40,000	136,667
8900 9605999	Beyond the Streets	Large (£250k+)	Door of Hope	Funding our Door of Hope Coordinator, overseeing our project working with women	Boroughwide	23,399	79,947

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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Theme 5 – Scheme B: Community Safety							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				selling sex in Tower Hamlets through street outreach, drop ins and long term, trauma informed, 1:1 support that includes advocating for and enabling positive outcomes within themes of homelessness, income and food poverty, substance misuse, and physical/mental health			
8914 9606013	Women’s Inclusive Team	Large (£250k+)	Haawa Project (Community Safety)	The Hawaa Project is a tailored advice and guidance service for BAME women affected by domestic abuse. WIT provides a safe and confidential environment, where cultural and linguistic needs of minority women are catered for. Hawaa is set to help tackle a culturally sensitive issue that is often overlooked.	Boroughwide	30,000	102,500
8678 9605777	D'awatul Islam UK & Eire Ltd	Large (£250k+)	"Our Park" - 'Safer Parks Campaign'	The "Safer Parks Campaign" empowers local communities to tackle issues like anti-social behaviour, drug abuse, mugging, sexual exploitation, and violence in parks. A	Limehouse Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Whitechapel	30,000	102,500

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

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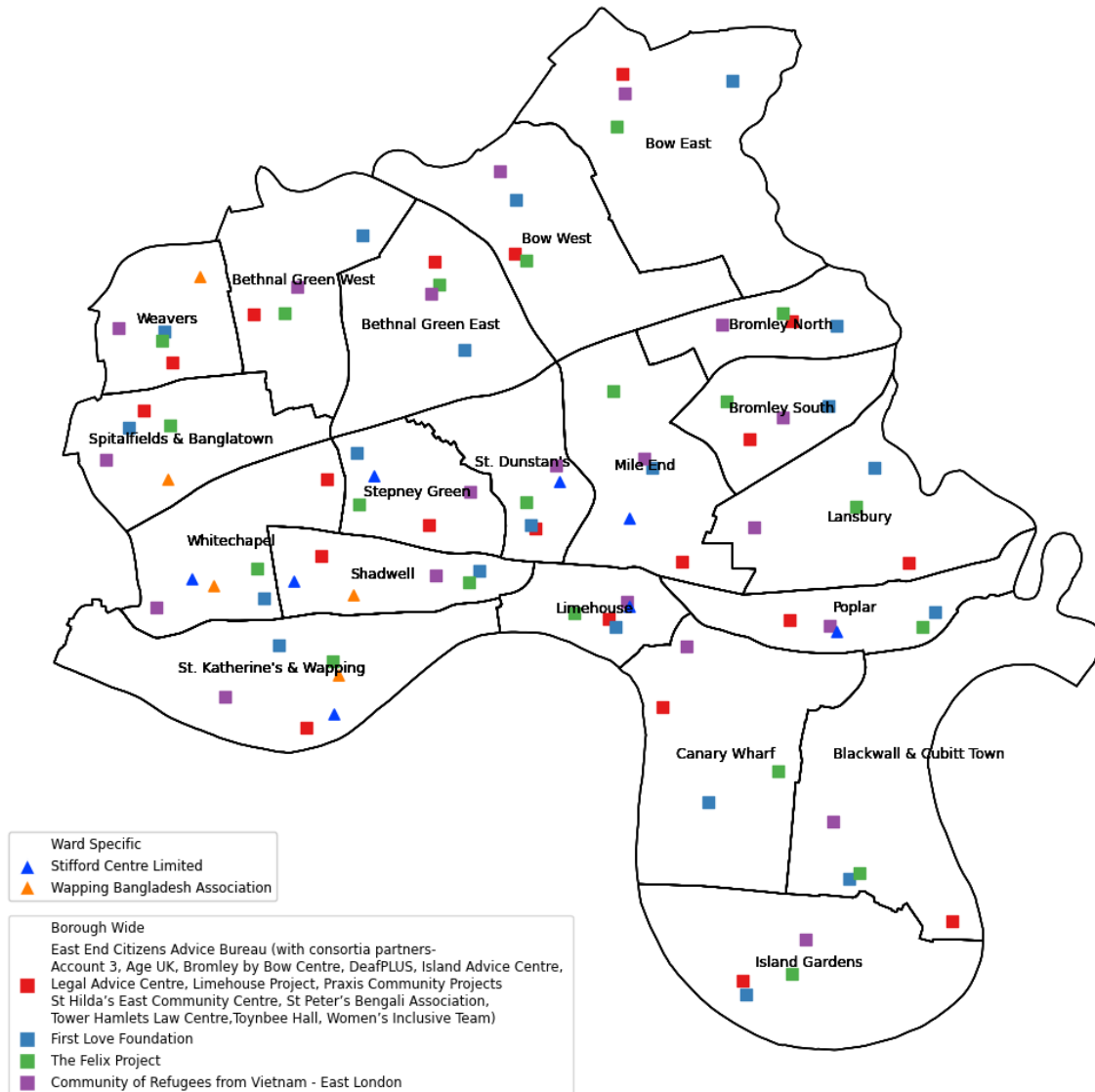
Theme 5 – Scheme B: Community Safety							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
				diverse team of 20 individuals, will work together to make parks safer through community organising, community listening, social action, and negotiations with authorities.			
8738 9605837	Shadwell Trust	Small (less than £150k)	Self Defence Classes and Creative Arts	Self Defence Classes and Creative Arts for Girls, Women and BAME Young People	Shadwell St Katherine's and Wapping Stepney Green Whitechapel	20,000	68,333
8821 9605920	City Gateway 14-19 Provision	Large (£250k+)	ReBuild - Pathways to Employment for Ex-Offenders	Our programme, ReBuild, focuses on enhancing the life opportunities and employment opportunities of ex-offenders aged 16-24. We provide dedicated assistance to this group through our education and training pathways, underpinned by one-to-one coaching, supporting them into sustainable education, employment and training (EET) outcomes with partner employers.	Boroughwide	20,000	68,333

MCGP 2023-27 Recommended Projects

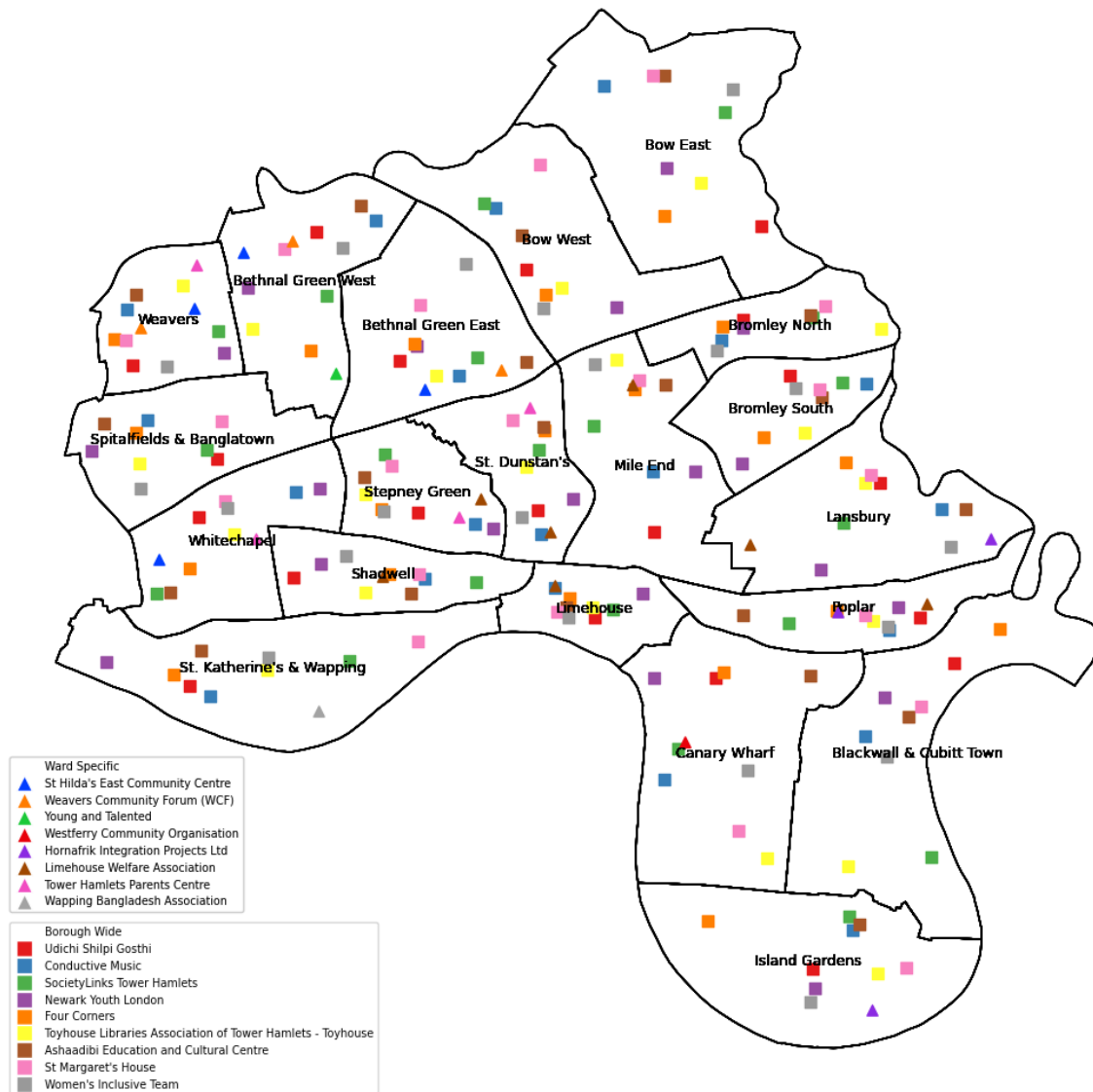
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Theme 5 – Scheme B: Community Safety							
ID	Organisation	Size of Organisation	Project Title	Short Project Description	Geographical Area Served	Recommended (Annual Amount)	Recommended (Total 41 Months)
8792 9605891	Look Ahead Care and Support	Large (£250k+)	Children's Domestic Violence Support Worker	A specialist Children’s Domestic Violence Support Worker to support children living at the refuge who have experienced trauma due to early exposure to domestic abuse. The post will be embedded in the Tower Hamlets Domestic Abuse Service and support children while they stay in the refuge.	Shadwell	20,000	68,333
						223,399	763,280

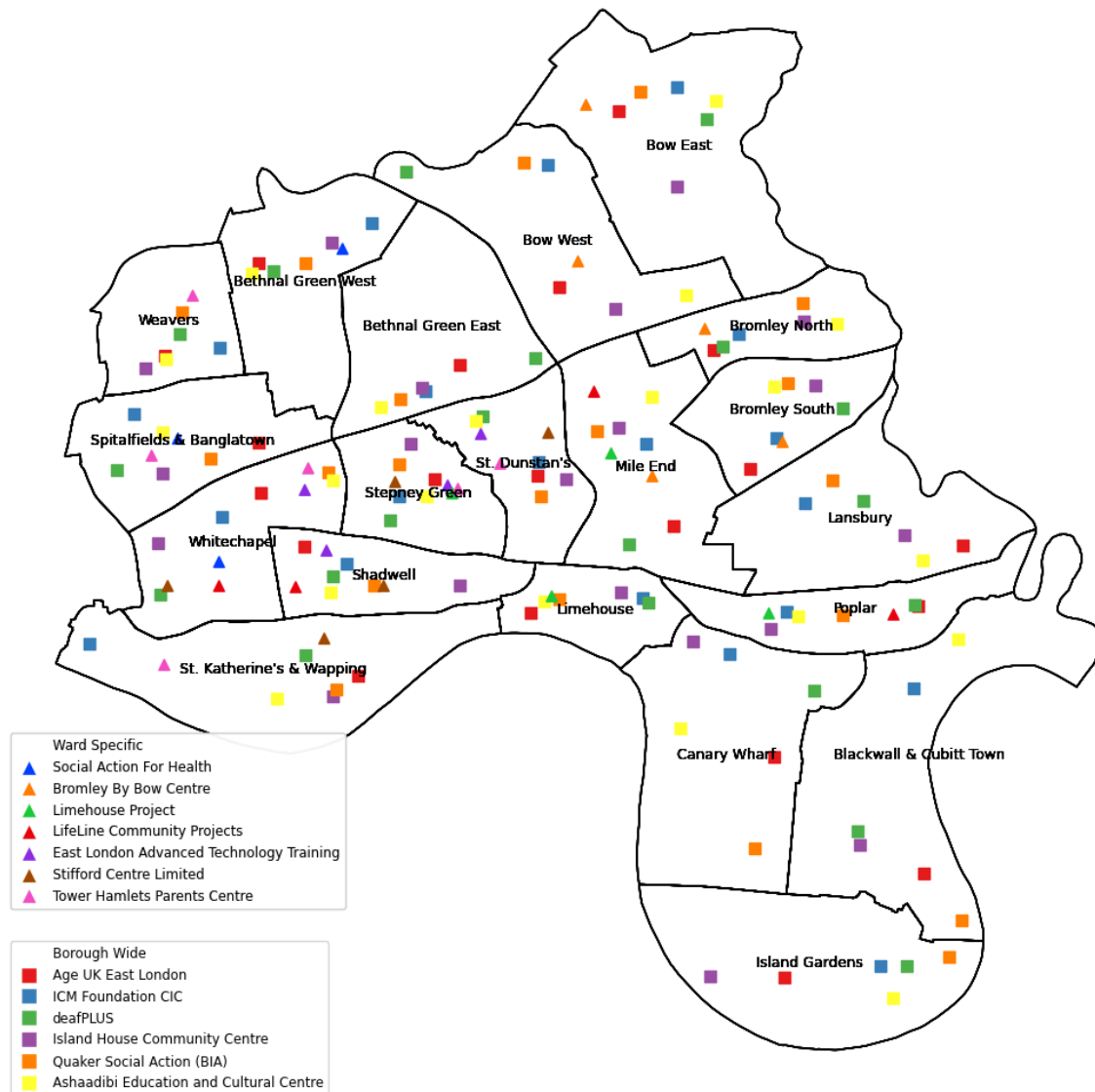
Theme 1 - Scheme A: Advice, Information and Crisis Support



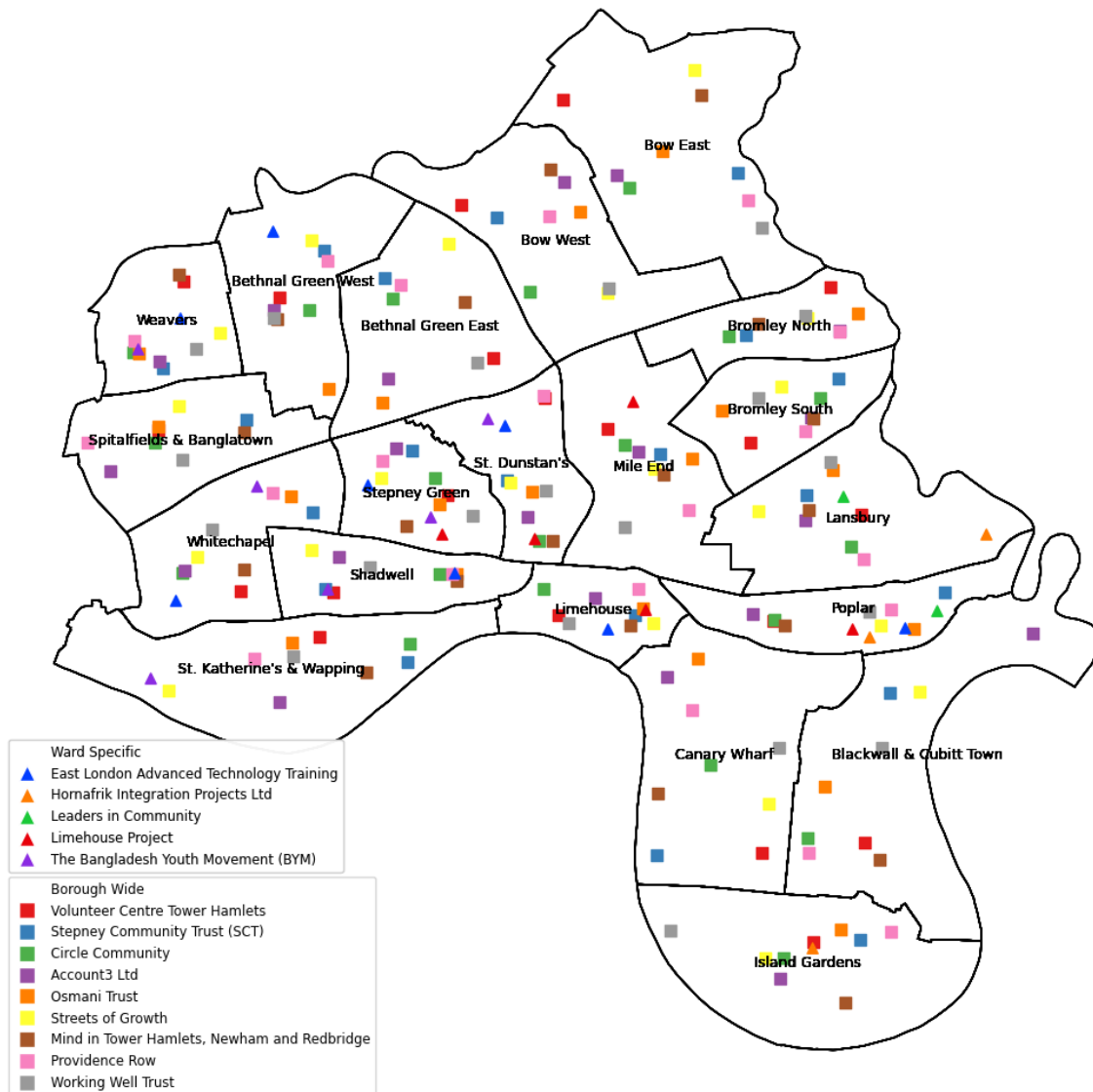
Theme 2 - Scheme A: Education Attainment and Development of Children and Young People



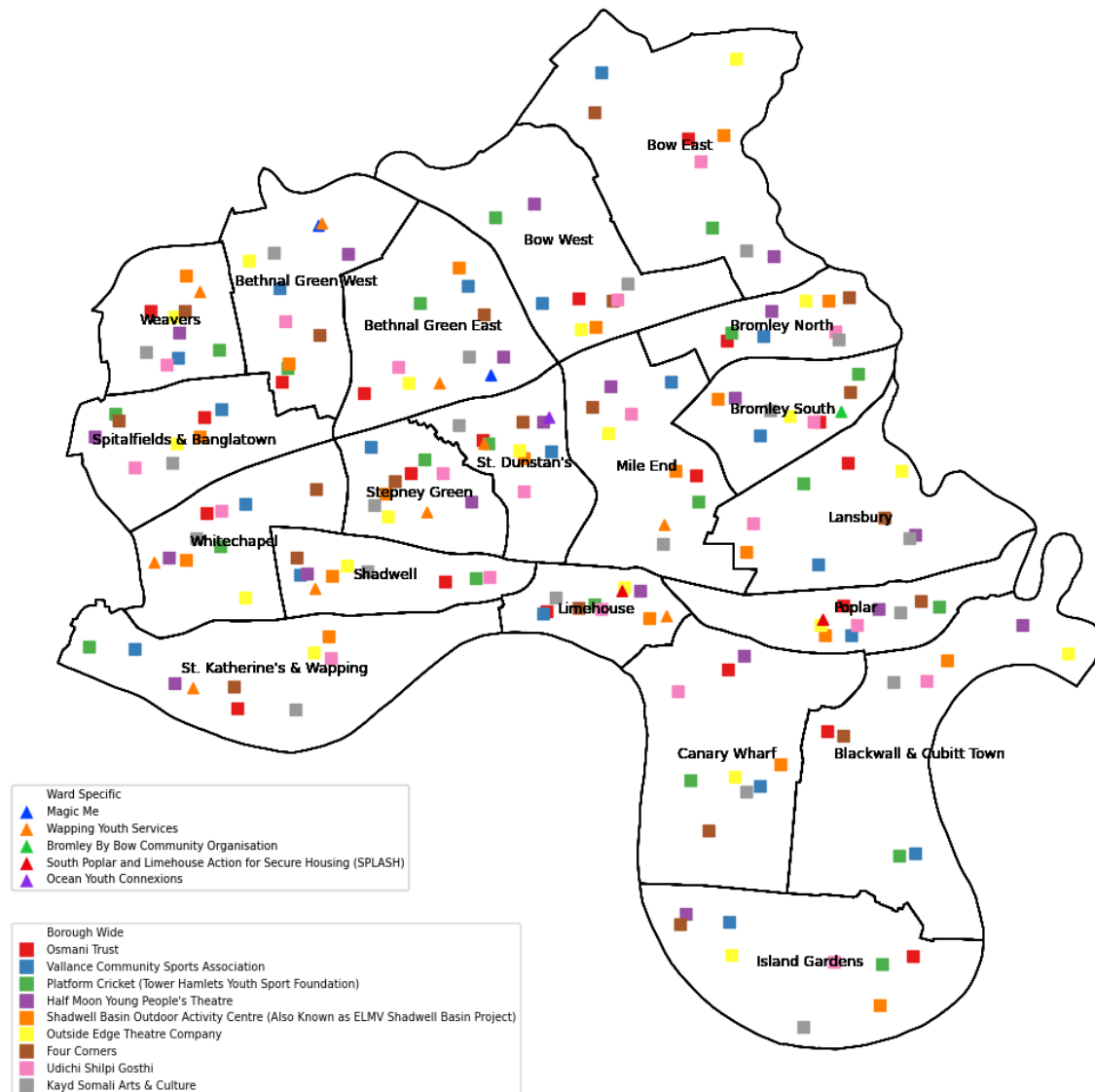
Theme 2 - Scheme B: Lifelong Learning



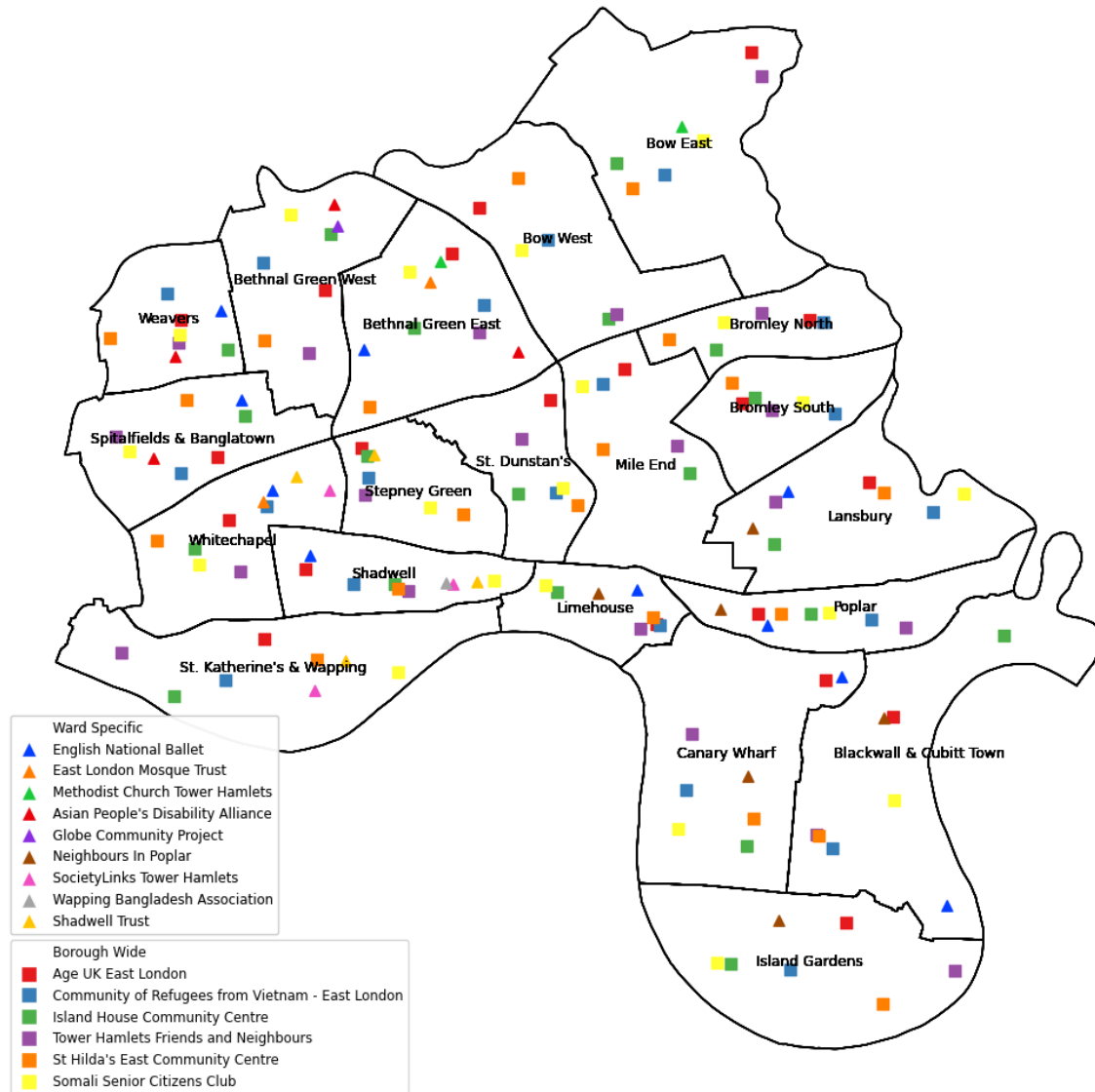
Theme 3 - Scheme A: Employment and Skills Opportunities for Socially Excluded Residents



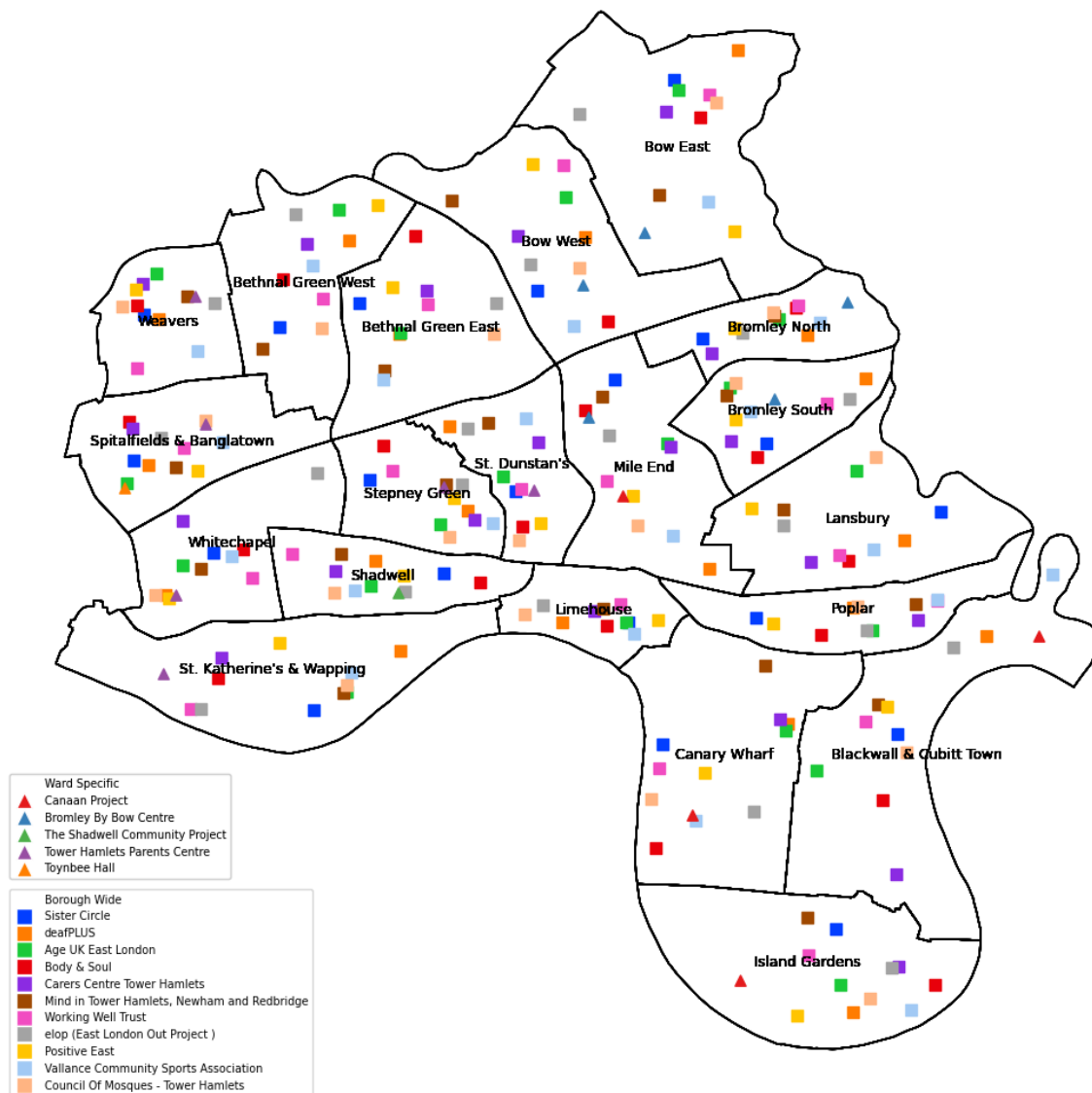
Theme 3 - Scheme B: Sports and Local Culture and Heritage



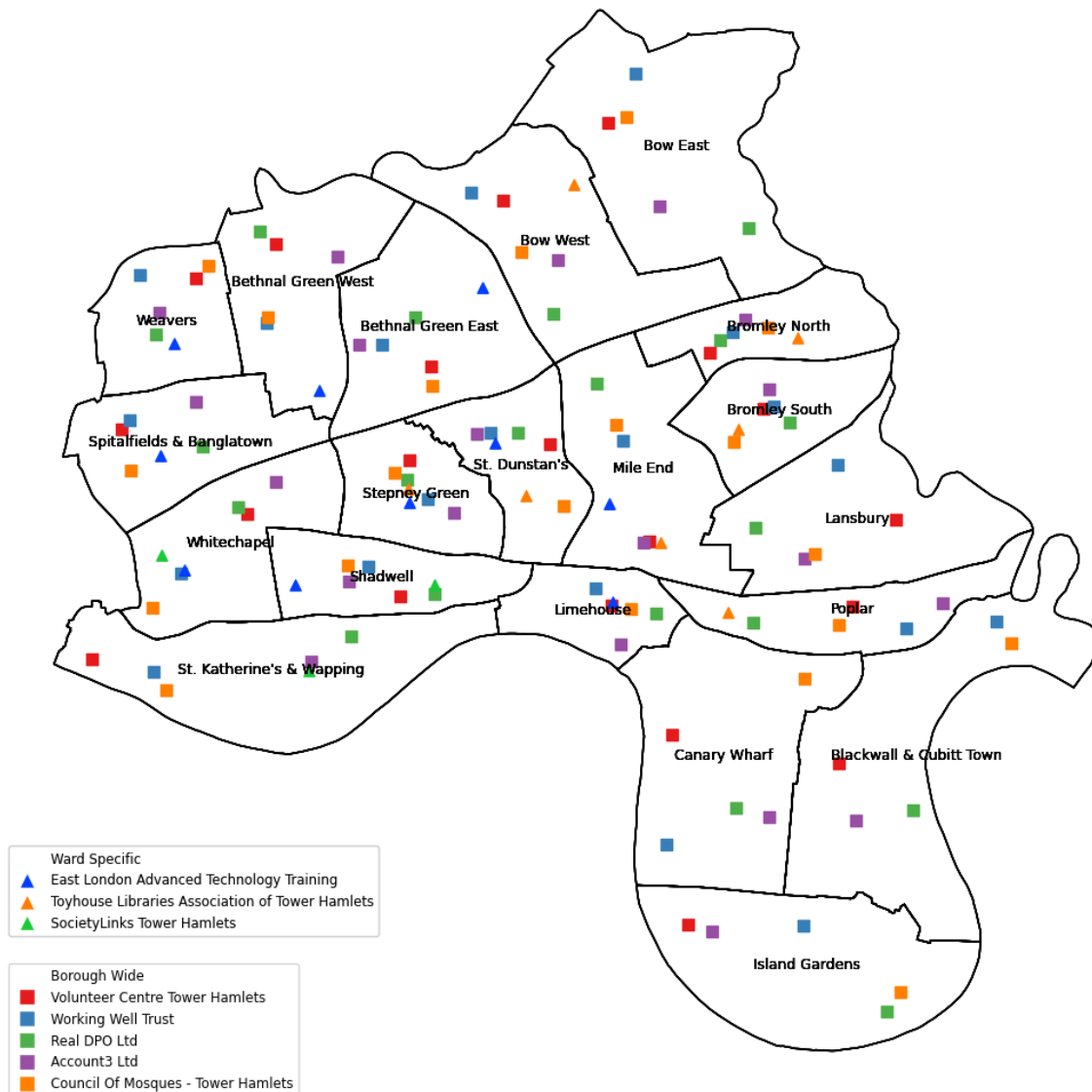
Theme 4 - Scheme A: Physical and Mental Wellbeing of Older People



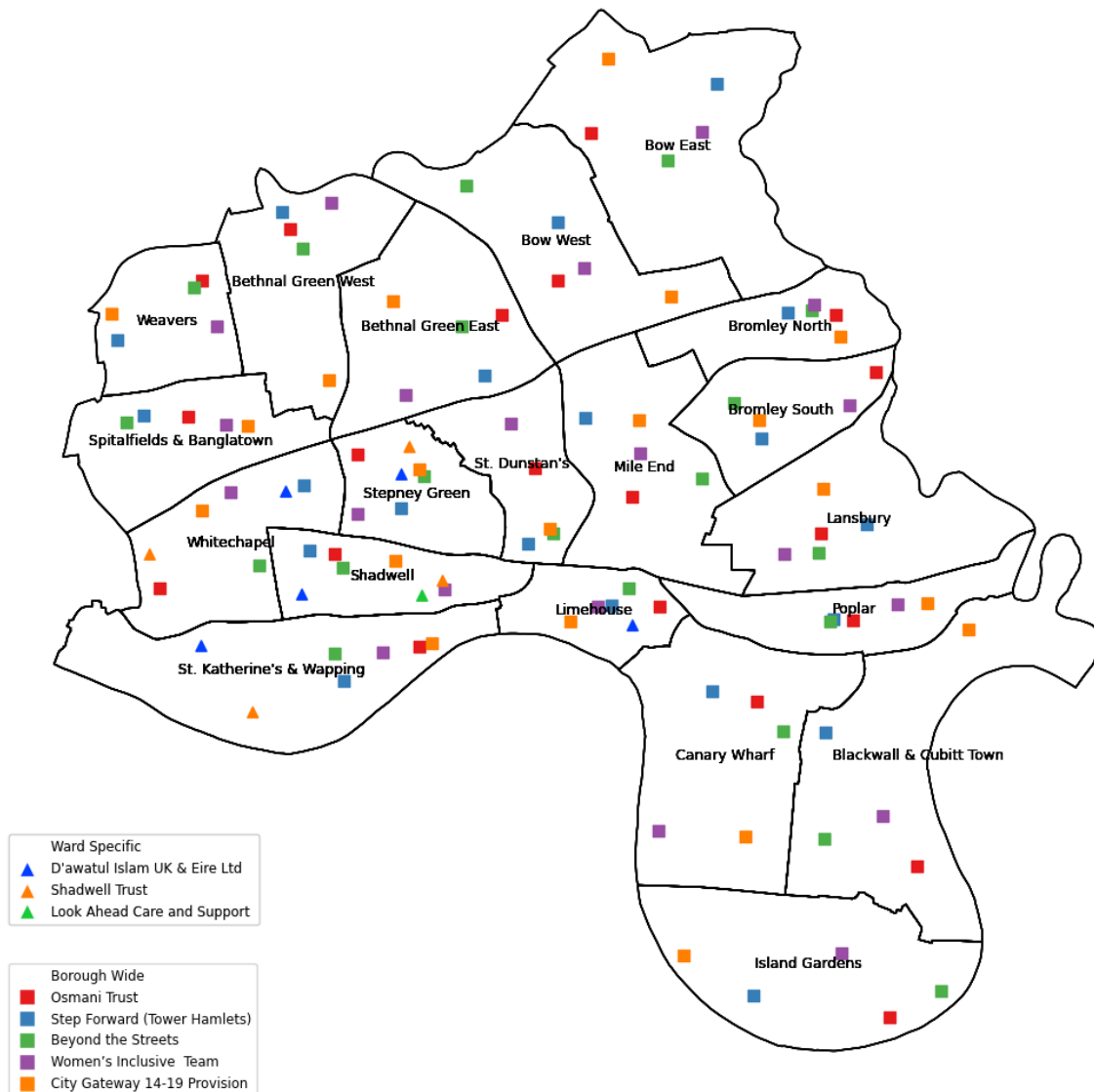
Theme 4 - Scheme B: Physical and Mental Health of Residents



Theme 5 - Scheme A: Inequalities Experienced by People and Communities Reflecting Different Equality Groups and Social Economic Backgrounds



Theme 5 - Scheme B: Community Safety



SUBSIDY CONTROL ACT PRINCIPLES

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Remedy to be Delivered by Subsidy	Anticipated Outcomes
Specific policy objective	Must remedy an identified market failure or address an equity rationale such as social difficulties or distributional concerns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of specific policy objective • Establish the existence and significance of market failure/inequality addressed by subsidy • Identify how subsidy would address market failure or equality objective (reduce an inequality) • State the desired outcome(s) <p>Tower Hamlets Evidence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCGP prospectus and its links with priorities of Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026 • High level of inequality and needs in the borough • Demographics • Research, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>2021 Census</i> - <i>Tower Hamlets Poverty Review</i> - <i>Tower Hamlets BAME Inequalities Commission</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of community based services, by VCS organisations best placed to respond to local needs, to deliver outcomes not being met by other services • Promoting equality by supporting delivery of services by VCS organisations embedded in and representing local communities, who have extensive insights into these communities' needs • Delivery of essential services by VCS organisations to socially excluded groups who may have had negative experiences of statutory sector services or have difficulties in accessing these services. 	Outcomes outlined in MCGP prospectus for each of the Themes. Information can be supplied for recommended new MCGP projects, if required.

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Remedy to be Delivered by Subsidy	Anticipated Outcomes
		<p><i>Report and Recommendations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Understanding the Impact of COVID-19 in Tower Hamlets</i> - EQIA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence to confirm need for specialised VCS programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - data on previous VCS programmes extensive level of support for specific socially excluded communities - highlighting cases of successful VCS programme interventions – - information on socially excluded communities’ reliance on VCS services - evidence on unmet need - - highlighting of vital role of VCS during pandemic and recovery process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific remedies could be listed for particular MCGP Schemes and Themes. 	

Appendix F

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Remedy to be Delivered by Subsidy	Anticipated Outcomes

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Evidence
Proportionality	Subsidies should be proportionate and limited to what is necessary to achieve the objective	Demonstrate how the subsidy is proportionate and designed to minimise negative effects on competition and investment within the UK, whilst still allowing it to meet the policy objective. This should include details on how we have considered following subsidy characteristics:	
		Nature of subsidiary	Grants to charitable organisation to deliver essential services to local residents
		Breadth of beneficiaries and the selection process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary and community organisations • registered charities, including charitable incorporated organisations • registered not-for-profit companies • registered community interest companies • faith-based groups, where the funding is for inclusive activity that is open to all. <p>Organisations are required to have a registered office in Tower Hamlets, have a base within Tower Hamlets,</p>

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Evidence
			<p>or can demonstrate a track record of successful service delivery within the borough for at least two years. Selection through grant application process.</p> <p>Organisation’s submissions are assessed by Council officers, with the Chief Executive of the Council making the decision on which organisations are funded to deliver specific projects.</p>
		Subsidy size	<p>Maximum grant of £40,000 a year, with grants available from November 2023 to March 2027. Possible maximum grant of £140,000 over this time-scale.</p> <p>Exception to above is Theme 1 Cost of Living, for which consortium applications – involving a number of organisations - can apply for all of the funds available for this theme: £900,000 in one year. Potential maximum grant of £3,150,000 from November 2023 to March 2027.</p>
		Nature of costs being covered	<p>Costs of delivering a project relating to MCGP prospectus schemes. Any proposed costs to be funded by MCGP - including organisation’s core costs, such as management time and premises - must relate to the MCGP project.</p>

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Evidence
		Performance criteria	<p>Organisations' performance will be monitored against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key performance indicators • outcomes • progress on supporting residents from different council wards in the borough and residents from different protected characteristic groups.
		Ringfencing	<p>Grant allocations were allocated against specific themes, and schemes within these themes, in relation to Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan priorities.</p>
		Monitoring and evaluation	<p>Quarterly on-line monitoring returns from organisations to the Council, outlining progress on achieving quarterly KPIs and general project progress.</p> <p>Annual monitoring returns from organisations to the Council outlining year's performance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general progress of project • achievement of outcomes • supporting residents from different council wards in the borough and residents from different protected characteristic groups • use of project funds.

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Without Subsidy	Tower Hamlets With Subsidy
<p>Change in economic behaviour</p>	<p>Subsidies should be designed to bring about a change of economic behaviour of the beneficiary that is conducive to achieving the objective and that would not be achieved in the absence of subsidies being provided.</p>	<p>Future short-term and long-term scenario in the absence of the subsidy and with. Will the subsidy bring about the hoped for change of behaviour?</p>	<p>Short-Term</p> <p>Absence of MCGP would mean that charitable organisations would not have sufficient levels of funding to deliver vital community-based services targeted at priority needs in the borough. The services funded by MCGP reflect its prospectus' direct links to the priorities of Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan 2022-2026. MCGP-funded services are focusing on the most high-level and urgent needs in Tower Hamlets. There is no other organisation providing funding for provision to respond to such a wide range of priority needs in the borough.</p> <p>Community-based charitable organisations in Tower Hamlets, like their counterparts in other boroughs in the UK, are facing significant challenges in securing funding to deliver services – please see section on Appropriate Instrument below. They would not be able to obtain</p>	<p>Short-Term</p> <p>MCGP awards would provide funding to charitable community-based organisations, based in or working in Tower Hamlets, to deliver vital services for the local community that would not be delivered – at the same level and with a targeted focus on local needs – if MCGP funding is not in place.</p> <p>Long-Term</p> <p>MCGP's provision of sustainable funding to charitable organisations in Tower Hamlets would provide long-term security and financial strength to these organisations. This would enable them to continue to deliver vital services for local residents, preventing community needs from increasing and placing unmanageable burdens on these organisations, with resultant decreases in the quality of service and potential threats to the organisations' existence.</p>

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Without Subsidy	Tower Hamlets With Subsidy
			<p>alternative funding, at the same level and time-scale, as MCGP, for new community-based services for local residents.</p> <p>Long-Term</p> <p>No MCGP funding would mean that there would be no Tower Hamlets-focused programme offering sustainable funding to charitable organisations in the borough. The absence of this funding would threaten these organisations' existence, which could lead to the termination of the vital services that they offer to local residents.</p> <p>The removal of a programme offering sustainable funding to local charitable organisations would reduce their potential to obtain additional funding from external sources to help them deliver services to local residents. Council funding for charitable organisations provides them with credibility to external funders, thus enhancing their prospects of</p>	<p>MCGP's offer of sustainable funding to charitable organisations in Tower Hamlets would increase these organisations' potential to obtain additional funding from external sources to help them deliver services to local residents. The receipt of Council funding would enable these organisations to build credibility with external funders and increase their potential to secure external funding from them.</p>

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Without Subsidy	Tower Hamlets With Subsidy
			<p>securing funding from these organisations.</p> <p>Absence of funding for community-based charitable organisations through MCGP to respond to the needs of local communities in Tower Hamlets would lead to an increase in the level of need from residents who would depend on these services. Many of these residents are from socially excluded communities and protected characteristic groups. This increase in the level of needs would place additional pressures on community-based charitable organisations in the borough, undermining their ability to deliver services effectively and possibly threatening their existence.</p>	

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Situation
<p>Costs would otherwise not be funded</p>	<p>Subsidies should not normally compensate for the costs the beneficiary would have funded in the absence of any subsidy.</p>	<p>How would the subsidy lead to a change in the economic behaviour of the beneficiary and assists with achieving the policy objective?</p>	<p>MCGP would fund beneficiaries (charitable organisations) to deliver services that are vital to local resident of Tower Hamlets and would not exist without this programme. The charitable organisations funded by MCGP to deliver above services with specialist policy objectives would not be delivering these services if the programme did not exist.</p>
		<p>Appropriate justification should be provided if subsidy will compensate for the costs the beneficiary would have likely funded in the absence of any subsidy such as business as usual (BAU) costs.</p>	<p>MCGP would only fund costs related to MCGP-funded projects, including core costs for organisations that can be apportioned to MCGP projects, such as management and premises costs.</p>
		<p>Schemes should show how any BAU customers will not benefit from the subsidy as compared with those who will benefit as “extra customers”.</p> <p>Need to demonstrate how the subsidy will bring new benefits and beneficiaries.</p>	<p>Focus of MCGP is on funding as wide and diverse a range of organisations as possible in order to ensure that innovative projects which improve outcomes for local people are being delivered. MCGP would provide Council funding for a number of organisations for the first time, to enable them to deliver community-based services for local residents. The services that MCGP would fund would be comprehensive and innovative, ensuring that all communities in the borough are supported, including those not currently benefitting from local services.</p>

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Situation
<p>Appropriate instrument through other less distortive means.</p>	<p>Subsidies should be an appropriate policy instrument to achieve a public policy objective and that objective cannot be achieved through other less distortive means.</p>	<p>Justify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • why a subsidy is the most appropriate instrument for addressing the identified policy objective • why other instruments have been set aside such as regulation, direct provision of the good or service by the authority or loans or equity investment on commercial terms. Consideration of whether this is something the Council could do itself and if not, why not. 	<p>MCGP would fund beneficiaries to deliver services that are vital to local resident of Tower Hamlets and would not exist without this programme. Grant-funding, like MCGP, is best placed to respond to community needs as it is dependent on the community bringing forward ideas and proposals for activities to achieve positive outcomes. It thus results in the provision of services that are more responsive to community needs than a more prescriptive tendering process, which could potentially lead to contracts for provision being secured by larger organisations, external to the borough, who do not have the community roots and links that local VCS organisations have.</p> <p>Charitable organisations funded by MCGP to deliver above services with specialist policy objectives would not be delivering these services if the programme did not exist. These organisations are facing significant challenges in securing funding for new services. There have been significant reductions in external funding available to charitable organisations in the post-pandemic world, with many external grants now being short-term in nature. The suspension of physically-based activities during lockdown has had a long-term effect, with many charitable organisations reducing such activities, including events that they would have charged beneficiaries to use and fundraising events, such as social events or hiring out their premises for external use. This has had a negative impact on the financial strength of charitable organisations.</p>

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Situation
			<p>The cost of living crisis has placed significant pressures on charitable organisations’ management of their finances, including ability to pay satisfactory salaries to retain experienced and trained staff. The crisis has also resulted in less donations from the general public to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • charitable making trusts, which ensures that these trusts have less funds to allocate to local charitable organisations. • local charitable organisations themselves <p>The cost of living crisis and the long-term impacts of the pandemic, with their negative effects on local residents, have also led to increased demand on charitable organisations’ services, thus exacerbating the financial challenges that they face.</p> <p>As outlined above, charitable VCS organisations are uniquely placed to respond to the needs of local communities, including socially excluded residents. In particular, charitable organisations who represent or support particular protected characteristic groups have the links, knowledge and experience to deliver responsive and sensitive services. The Council and other local statutory sector services do not have the same relationships with local communities. Moreover, many communities in the borough have had negative experiences with the Council and other statutory sector providers in terms of service provision, including in terms of responsiveness, equitable</p>

Appendix F

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Situation
			treatment and accessibility. Local charitable organisations are best placed to address these communities' needs.

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Evidence
Minimal adverse effects on competition	Subsidies should be designed to achieve their specific policy objective while minimising any negative effects on competition or investment within the UK.	Demonstrate how the subsidy is proportionate and designed to minimise negative effects on competition and investment within the UK, whilst still allowing it to meet the policy objective. This should include details on how we have considered following subsidy characteristics:	
		Nature of subsidiary	Grants to charitable organisation to deliver essential services to local residents
		Breadth of beneficiaries and the selection process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary and community organisations • registered charities, including charitable incorporated organisations • registered not-for-profit companies • registered community interest companies • faith-based groups, where the funding is for inclusive activity that is open to all <p>Organisations are required to have a registered office in Tower Hamlets, have a base within Tower Hamlets, or can demonstrate a track record of successful service delivery within the borough for at least two years.</p>

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Evidence
			<p>Selection through grant application process. Organisation’s submissions are assessed by Council officers, with the Chief Executive of the Council making the decision on which organisations are funded to deliver specific projects.</p>
		Subsidy size	<p>Maximum grant of £40,000 a year, with grants available from November 2023 to March 2027. Possible maximum grant of £140,000 over this time-scale.</p> <p>Exception to above is Theme 1 Cost of Living for which consortium applications can apply for all of the funds available for this theme: £900,000 in one year. Potential maximum grant of £3,150,000 from November 2023 to March 2027.</p>
		Nature of costs being covered	<p>Costs of delivering a project relating to MCGP prospectus. Any proposed costs to be funded by MCGP, including organisation’s core costs such as management time and premises, must relate to the MCGP project.</p>
		Performance criteria	<p>Organisations’ performance will be monitored against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key performance indicators • outcomes

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Evidence
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progress on supporting residents from different council wards in the borough and residents from different protected characteristic groups • use of project funds.
		Ringfencing	Grant allocations were allocated against specific themes, and schemes within these themes, in relation to Tower Hamlets Council Strategic Plan priorities.
		Monitoring and evaluation	<p>Quarterly on-line monitoring returns from organisations to the Council outlining progress on achieving quarterly KPIs and general project progress.</p> <p>Annual monitoring returns from organisations to the Council outlining on year's performance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • general progress of project • achievement of outcomes • supporting residents from different council wards in the borough and residents from different protected characteristic groups • use of project funds.

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Situation
<p>Benefits outweigh negative impacts</p>	<p>Subsidies' positive contributions to achieving the objective should outweigh any negative effects, in particular the negative effects on trade or investment between the Parties.</p>	<p>Details of the expected benefits of the subsidy (as they relate to the specified public policy objective) and its anticipated negative effects, including in particular any negative effects on competition and investment within the UK. This should also include any geographical and distributional impacts. Justify why the negative effects are outweighed.</p> <p>It will not always be possible to quantify every element of the assessment, and therefore the balancing exercise may need to include both quantitative and qualitative elements.</p>	<p>Outline positive outcomes to be delivered by each MCGP Scheme, as set out in the prospectus, or projects recommended for funding, if required.</p> <p>In terms of potential negative effects on competition of MCGP award process, focus on the competitive process to determine award allocations and the anticipated wider community benefits of approved MCGP projects.</p> <p>In regard to geographical impact focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pan-borough nature of the programme • requirement for MCGP applicants to define proposed project catchment area and how this question was addressed in MCGP assessment process. <p>For distributional impacts need to focus on fact that MCGP would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • awarded to as wide a range of organisations as possible • expected to be the first LBTH programme funding that some organisations would receive • supporting VCS organisations representing and supporting a wide range of communities and protected characteristic groups, many of which experience social exclusion and require specialist services.

Appendix F

Subsidy Principles	Clarification	Evidence	Tower Hamlets Situation

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR USE OF NCIL

CIL legislation allows 15% of CIL to be spent on infrastructure or **'anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area'**.

The main guiding principle for the use of NCIL is that it must be linked to growth. This means it is either used in a way which supports existing growth such as providing amenities for increasing population or contributes to the well-being and enhancement of the community affected by development. Examples would include delivery of activities which create a sense of community belonging, improving overall well-being, and ensuring that the social fabric remains intact despite the changes brought about by development.

We considered whether the project meets at least one of the following deemed linked to growth.

- Builds community i.e improves how well people from different backgrounds get on together.
- Increases social cohesion i.e skills and interest groups focused on hobbies and interests providing opportunities for residents to come together based on shared passions.
- Increases community participation/inclusion and access to benefits presented by local growth.
- Support services like counselling, youth programmes and social care i.e. elderly and disabled to address the evolving needs of the community (supporting inclusivity).
- Supports the cultural and local traditions that can maintain the area's unique identity despite development. Anything that reflects the community's values and heritage sparking conversations and connections amongst residents.
- Increases safety, reducing ASB, improving levels of hate, crime, and domestic violence.
- Ensures that a particular community is not left out of the benefits of local growth and expansion i.e. skills development or overcoming barriers.
- Platforms that facilitate communication and information sharing amongst residents.
- Other community benefits justifiably linked to the impacts of growth.