

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee



Wednesday, 9 March 2022 at 1.30 p.m.

Committee Room One - Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove
Crescent, London, E14 2BG

Agenda

Chair

Councillor Candida Ronald
(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)

Members

Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities (Statutory Deputy Mayor))
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)

Substitutes

Councillor Rachel Blake	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury	(Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm – (Job Share post as part of Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio))
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	(Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion – (Job Share post as part of Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio))
Councillor Danny Hassell	(Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Asma Islam	(Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Work, Economic Growth and Faith)

[The quorum for the Sub - Committee is 3 Members]

Further Information

Reports for consideration, meeting contact details, public participation and more information on decision-making is available on the following pages.



Public Information

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The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Grants Determination Sub - Committee. Except where any exempt/restricted documents are being discussed, However seating is restriction due to the Covid – 19 restrictions. To reserve a seat you must contact the Democratic Services Officer.

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Contact for further enquiries:

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Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

Wednesday, 9 March 2022

1.30 p.m.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Pages 5 - 6)

Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, please see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.

Members are reminded to declare the nature of the interest and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it's the Members' responsibility to declare any interests form and to update their register of interest form as required by the Code.

If in doubt as to the nature of your interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES (Pages 7 - 22)

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2022

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

Consideration of any written comments received from members of the public in relation to any of the reports on the agenda.

[Any submissions should be sent to the clerk listed on the agenda front page by 5pm the day before the meeting]

5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

To note for information individual decisions relating to the award of grants that have been taken by the Mayor the last meeting.



6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6 .1 | Grant to Toynbee Hall for a ‘Memories, Craft and Community Hub’ as part of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone programme | 23 – 28 | Spitalfields & Banglatown |
| 6 .2 | Grant increase to Toynbee Hall to support the production of an updated Plan for the Wentworth Street Conservation Area. | 29 - 36 | Spitalfields & Banglatown |
| 6 .3 | Public Realm Improvements (Private Land Agreement) – Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme | 37 - 46 | Spitalfields & Banglatown |
| 6 .4 | Development of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) funding programmes | 47 - 58 | All Wards |
| 6 .5 | Aberfeldy Pocket Park - Grant offer to Poplar HARCA using Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) to support the design and delivery of a pocket park, public realm improvements and engagement near Dee Street | 59 - 72 | Lansbury |

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

Next Meeting of the Committee: TBC



Agenda Item 2.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests. In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

Guidance on Predetermination and Bias

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

Further Advice contact: Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal and Monitoring Officer, Tel: 0207 364 4800.

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 5.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2022

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE
CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Candida Ronald (Chair)	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Councillor Kahar Chowdhury (Substitute for Councillor Sirajul Islam)	Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm – (Job Share post as part of Social Inclusion and Public Realm portfolio)
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman (Substitute for Councillor Asma Begum)	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Work, Economic Growth and Faith)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Leema Qureshi*	(Scrutiny Lead, Resources)
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Officers Present:

Awo Ahmed*	(Programme Assessment and Monitoring Officer, Corporate Strategy & Policy, Communities Team, Governance)
Afraa Ali*	(Regeneration Manager, Strategic Planning, Place)
Yasmin Ali*	(Development Project Manager, Place)
Honora Brinkley*	(Project Manager, Smarter Together Programme)
Terry Bryan*	(Service Head (Pupil Access and School Sufficiency))
Charlie Carter	(Assistant Project Manager, Town Hall Project)
David Esdaile*	(Environmental Sustainability Officer, Place)
Emily Fieran-Reed	(Senior Strategy and Policy Manager, Corporate Strategy & Policy, Communities Team, Governance)
Aelswith Frayne*	(Head of Employment and Skills)
Jonathan Fox	(Principal Contracts Lawyer, Legal Services Governance)
Dominic Hinde*	(Tackling Poverty Team, Leader)
Abdul Khan*	(Environmental Sustainability Officer, Place)
Dudzile Moyo*	(Infrastructure Planning Officer, Place)
Adam Richards*	(Regeneration Project Manager)

Sarah Wilks* (Infrastructure Planning Team Leader, Place)
Anna Zucchelli (Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place)
Vincent Wood (Food Security Office, Place)

Zoe Folley (Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)

* Remote attendee

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Mayor John Biggs
- Councillor Asma Begum (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
- Councillor Sirajul Islam, Cabinet Member for Community Safety.
- Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Sports)

The following Councillors were deputising:

- Councillor Kahar Chowdhury (Cabinet Member for Highways and Public Realm)
- Councillor Motin Uz – Zaman (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Work, Economic Growth and Faith)
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2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillors Kahar Chowdhury, Motin Uz – Zaman and Leema Qureshi declared a non DPI interest in agenda items relating to applications/projects in their ward. In particular, in relation to 6.12 VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority Councillor Chowdhury highlighted two applications Phase Two Chrisp Street Community Cycles, and Boxing for the Community in London that had received funding and were in his ward.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Sub – Committee held on 27th October 2021 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were none.

5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

There were none.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Grant Payment for St Anne's Catholic Primary School Expansion

Terry Bryan, Pupil Services (Admissions, Exclusions) Education and Partnerships) and Honora Brinkley (Senior Capital Client Officer) presented the report. It was noted that a budget of £1.3M was approved by Cabinet for the expansion of St Anne's school in September 2020 – following the closure of the Guardian Angels Catholic Primary school. This report seeks approval to pay this allocated budget, as a grant, to The Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster to support timely delivery of the expansion project. This was subject to compliance with the funding conditions.

The report also set out the arrangements for securing the council's position in relation to the LBTH part of land at Guardian Angels. A formal offer will only be made once a grant agreement had been entered into with the Diocese to ensure matters regarding the land had been completed to its satisfaction.

The Sub – Committee noted the questions submitted on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the following:

- Mitigations for the reduction in reception places in the catchment area by 30 – officers highlighted the background to the expansion plans. There has been a separate consultation on the closure of the school and the Mayor in Cabinet has approved this. The affected pupils had opted to move to St Anne's school and places had been provided for. The closure had been offset.
- Plans to reimburse the costs of the works. Assurances were sought regarding the completion of an inspection to ensure it was satisfactory. In response, Officers referred to the Legal grant agreement, which set out how the works will be inspected, including the plans for a project closure report. It was confirmed that grant will only be released on receipt of satisfactory evidence of completion of works.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

- Impact of school closures. It was noted that Officers were mindful of the need to increased capacity of schools following closures. They gave assurances about the contingency plans in place in the event of unforeseen issues.
- The Grants conditions. Officers confirmed that payment will only be made once matters regarding the ownership and proceeds from the sale of the land at the former Guardian Angels School have been completed to the council's satisfaction. The Council will ultimately be re-imbursed for the sale of the land, following a Section 77 application to the DfE.

RESOLVED:

1. Authorise the Corporate Director of Children and Culture to issue a formal offer of grant to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster to a maximum of £1.3M towards the costs for the expansion of St Anne's Catholic Primary School
2. Delegate the Corporate Director of Children and Culture the power to authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to resolution 1

6.2 Grant offer to Toynbee Hall to support the production of an updated Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan (CAAMP) for the Wentworth Street Conservation Area

Anna Zucchelli (Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place) presented the report. The report sought permission for the Council to release the grant from Historic England to Toynbee Hall to work collaboratively with the local community to update the Plan -as part of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone,

The Sub – Committee noted the key features of the scheme including:

- The aims of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone, to deliver improvements to run in conjunction with the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme.
- Details of the proposed approach to updating the plan and managing the work, including the work with the Community Appraisers and the plans to recruit a new member of staff at Toynbee Hall to support the project
- Merits of the proposals for local people in terms of raising awareness and education in relation to heritage issues.

The Sub – Committee noted the questions submitted on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the following issues :

- Lessons learnt from the previous engagement exercises, particularly in relation to engagement with a wider demographic profile of the borough and schools. It was noted that Toynbee Hall had, at early stage developed a plan for community engagement and carried out an extensive amount of outreach work. They were also mindful of the need and worked hard to engage with a wide range of ages including young people and school pupils. Recent initiatives included the development of a project called 'walk to school' involving school children, aimed at providing opportunities for them to observe local history.

- The opportunities to involve Council's WorkPath agency in the project and help with potential employment/ apprenticeship opportunities for Community Appraisers. Officers undertook to look further into this.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

- The monitoring of the objectives – the Council's role in measuring this.
- In response, Members were advised of the Council's work in relation to this. The Council held monthly meetings with Toynbee Hall and they regularly submit a return in accordance with Historic England requirements
- The engagement with the Council's Town Centre Team in delivering this project. It was confirmed that the Officers worked closely and collaborated with the team in delivering this and on the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme, in carrying out and coordinating work.
- The timescale for allocating the budget. It was confirmed that most of the funding would be allocated in the next couple of years, given the nature of the funding.
- A Member requested that Officers work with the Council's WorkPath team in relation to employment opportunities.

RESOLVED:

1. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into a third-party grant agreement with Toynbee Hall for £40,324 to support the production of an updated Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for the Wentworth Street Conservation Area.

6.3 London Square (New Town Hall) - CIL

Charlie Carter – Assistant Project Manager (Town Hall) presented the report.

The report sought permission to use £1,486,800 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to deliver the London Square (working title) project on behalf of Barts NHS Trust (Barts) and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH).

Officers highlighted the aims of the project, which remained consistent with the PID, which sought to:

- To provide a civic setting for the new town hall development;
- To provide strong visual amenity for the local area in between two commercially dense (employment) sites;
- To build accessible routes through the Whitechapel Masterplan area

The Sub – Committee noted the questions submitted on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the following:

Reassurances were sought about a number of issues as summarised below:

- In view the land ownership issues (primarily owned by Barts) whether the £1,486,800 equated to 20% of the expenditure or the total? It was confirmed that this was the total costs, and that this will be funded by the Council in line with the Cabinet decision. The Council were keen to see this square come forward given the benefits of the plans.
- Match funding from Barts. It was noted none was proposed.
- The long term responsibility for maintenance of this land and costs. The Council were engaged in discussions with Barts about future arrangements. The Council have proposed to pay for the costs of maintaining the square and Barts would repay the Council on a 80/20 basis, however this has not been finalised.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

- Members welcomed the proposals and supported the Council's ambitions for the London square, especially given the benefits.
- They were keen to see that it was completed in conjunction with the Town Hall development.

RESOLVED:

1. Authorise the use £1,486,800 of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to deliver the London Square (working title) project on behalf of Barts NHS Trust (Barts) and the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH);
2. Delegate the Corporate Director Place the power to authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to resolution 1.

6.4 Food Pantry Programme Funding – Family Action

Vincent Wood, (Food Security Officer) and Dominic Hinde, (Tackling Poverty Team Leader) presented the report.

This report relates to the approval of a grant of £96,364 to Family Action to fund the provision of six food pantries in Tower Hamlets from the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund.

The officers highlighted the key features of the scheme including:

- An overview of the food pantry model
- The key benefits of the proposals to tackle food poverty as well as bolster other forms of support that should help combat poverty and combat isolation.

- It was proposed to that the pantries would open in two cohorts, with three ready to launch immediately.
- The appendix detailed the proposed pantry locations.
- It was proposed to select Family Action to deliver the project for the reasons highlighted in the report - relating to Family Action's existing provision in the borough and the scalability of their model.
- This will make up the first phase of the rollout of the pantry programme, with the rest of sites to be offered to local voluntary organisations as part of an open bidding process.

The Sub – Committee noted the questions submitted on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the following:

- The approach to the bidding process. Officers explained in further details the reasons for selecting Family Action (due to for example to the fact they already ran successful sites in the Borough/their track record/sustainability and cost issues, as well as other issues)
- Contingency arrangements – in case of an oversubscription. Officers advised that they were mindful of these issues. They will continue to work with relevant groups, to identify residents that needed support and should be referred, and it was hoped in the long term to increase the capacity of the service to cater for more people.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

- The referrals process. Members noted the plans to work with such groups as Mosques. Clarity was sought on the Comms plan so that those most in need were aware of the support and could be referred. In response, it was noted that the sites would be locally based with a strong focus on engaging with the local community. They would 'tap into' local assets. The Council also collected poverty data from a dash board and may make referrals based on this.
- Lessons learnt from the pandemic and the data gained so far on the success of the project. It was noted that the pilots showed that the projects had been very successful in reducing poverty and debt. Officers were also looking at developing a new monitoring system for tracking the success of scheme.
- The sustainability of the project and the risks to the Council. Officers advised of the benefits of the proposed funding arrangements including the proposals to charge a membership fee. It was also noted that Family Action will also seek external funding and would fundraise themselves if necessary to fully cover the provision and would work to ensure that the project was delivered on time. They had agreed to this.

RESOLVED:

1. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to issue a formal offer of grant to Family Action to a maximum of £96,364 to fund the provision of six food pantries to run for a period of at least 2.5 years;

2. Delegate the Corporate Director Place the power to authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to resolution 1;
3. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Section 4 of the report

6.5 Community Gardens Programme

Adam Richards (Project Manager, Regeneration) presented the report.

It was noted that the Community Gardens Programme will deliver food growing, allotments and other forms of green community infrastructure at specific locations in LIF Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4.

This report presents the approach to distribute Local Infrastructure Funding via a grants process to community groups and other organisations to enable them to deliver community gardens across the Borough.

In particularly, the Committee noted:

- Details of the two phases of the scheme. The report related to the approach and the merits of Phase 2. It was noted that the Council will carry out a competitive procurement process to appoint a third party grant giving organisation.
- Benefits to delivering the grants programme as proposed – around staffing, expertise and capacity.
- Timetable for the project

The Committee also noted a correction to recommendation 4.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

- The proposals to create new garden sites. Assurances were sought about the ongoing substantiable of these new site in the long term.
- The measures to keep the fees affordable. Assurances were sought on the checks and balances to ensure costs to residents were kept low.
- In response, Officers advised of the safeguards that will be put in place to ensure this, (including requesting that a maintenance and management plan be submitted). All these issues would be carefully assessed and the appropriate due diligence checks would be carried out throughout the process,
- Members welcomed the project and felt it was important to make clear this was a Council initiative.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the availability of funding for the project.

2. Approve the process for inviting application for the Community Gardens Programme.
3. Agree the process for awarding grant funding, and subsequent monitoring arrangements
4. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to approve the individual award of grants made under this scheme

6.6 Connecting Communities - Digital Inclusion

Aelswith Frayne, (Head of Employment & Skills) presented the report.

The report sought a £50,000 financial contribution towards the Connecting Communities Digital Inclusion Programme.

It was noted that this was a partnership project (between the East End Community Foundation, Tower Hamlets Council, social housing provider Poplar Harca and education provider, the Letta Trust).

The project seeks to tackle digital exclusion through the provision of free digital devices and subsidised broadband connections to low-income households with primary school aged children.

The Sub – Committee were also advised of the following:

- Achievements to date. - the project has been delivering since June 2020. It has supported 240+ low-income families to-date in learning and access to job search, training, employment and social engagement resources, showing very positive results
- The longer term aims of the project.
- The fundraising activities to support the programme.
- Work with Housing Providers to engage them with the programme.
- Work with broadband providers, and their contributions to the project.
- Benefits of the project in terms significantly improving attainment at school level.

The Sub – Committee noted the questions submitted on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the following:

- The proposals for the next phase of the programme – in terms of the targets. It was confirmed that overall the scheme sought to provide £10M in support
- The thresholds for support and the support for large families of children. It was confirmed that the families were selected by schools on the basis of free school meals.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

The Committee welcomed this project, including the involvement of the Housing Associations in the process. It was requested that the project Steering Group should look at ways of pursuing the project and should continue to work to lobby for the provision of free broadband.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the contents of the report and the outcomes of the Connecting Communities Digital Inclusion project outcomes to-date.
2. To approve a grant of £50k from the Mayor's Priority Reserve to the Connecting Communities Digital Inclusion.

6.7 Community Centres Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) Capital Grant Programme

Sarah Wilks (Infrastructure Programmes Manager) and Duduzile Moyo (Principal Infrastructure Programme Officer) presented the report.

The Committee noted the key features of the proposal including the following:

- The purpose of the report is to seek approval for the establishment of the Community Centres Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) capital grant programme as a grant.
- The funding allocation is to be set up as a grant to enable local community centres in the borough to apply for grants ranging between £10,000 - £60,000 from the LIF programme for capital improvements.
- The grants will be awarded by the selected external grant management partner in compliance with the eligibility and selection criteria established by the Council.

The Committee welcomed the proposals.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the funding allocation of £1.6m approved by the Mayor in Cabinet in September 2020 and October 2021;
2. Authorise the use of up to £1.6m of the allocated funding for the refurbishment and enhancement of community centres in the borough as detailed in this report, to be administered through a grant process;
3. Delegate the Corporate Director Place via the LIF Working Group the power to undertake appropriate actions in respect of all matters concerning the management and monitoring of the grant;

4. Delegate the Corporate Director Place the power to authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to recommendation 2 and 3.
5. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Section 4.

6.8 Whitechapel Levelling up fund

Afraa Ali, (Regeneration Manager) presented the report.

It was noted that following the Council's successful bid, this report seeks approval to grant £1,072,087 from the Levelling up funding to TfL to deliver the Property Repair Project. This was on behalf of the businesses and complements works already planned by TfL

The Sub – Committee were also advised of the following:

- Nature of the proposed work – providing an opportunity to repair properties along the railway track, to improve the overall quality of the built environment,
- That TfL were best placed to deliver the project for a number of reasons which were noted as set out in the report. They were in a position to deliver the works by the funding deadline.

The Sub – Committee noted the questions submitted on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the following:

- The delivery of the project given TfL's financial challenges. It was confirmed that TfL had secured the funding for the programme and that it was necessary for them to carry out the work to properties for health and safety reasons.
- Whether the costs reflected or mirror that of TfL?. It was noted that TfL had worked with surveyors to assess and identify costs of repair, and they have given assurances that the work can be delivered in accordance with this estimates.
- The return on the investment for the Council. A business case had been put together, including the value for money assessment. Officers stated that they could share this with Members.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

- They thanked officers for the amount of work they had put in to get the bid.
- Members also sought assurances regarding compliance with the article of memorandum before the funding was released.
- Risk management issues. Assurances were sought about disruption of local businesses and the, arrangement for managing that. It was noted that TfL have engaged with them and businesses were aware of the

bid. TfL have set up a dedicated unit where they can discuss this issues with business, ensuring continuous engagement.

RESOLVED:

1. Approve the grant funding of £1,072,087 to TfL to deliver the Whitechapel Property Repair Project.
2. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into grant agreements and make any associated decisions in order to award the funding to TfL in accordance with this report.
3. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to nominate a Council Officer or Officers to sign on behalf of the Council any grant agreements necessary for the fulfilment of this scheme.

6.9 Carbon Reduction Community Grants Programme

David Esdaile and Abdul Khan (Environmental Sustainability Officers) presented the report, highlighting the key points

It was noted that the proposals are for 3 types of grants to stimulate action and the delivery of the adopted Net Zero Carbon Partnership Plan

These were as stated in paragraph 3.6.

- The proposals are for 3 types of grants:
- Low carbon heating and energy generating technologies – up to £30,000 per grant (allocation up to £300,000 to support 10 installations)
- Energy Efficiency Retrofit – up to £15,000 per grant (allocation up to £180,000 to support 12 retrofits)
- Learning and behavioural change projects – up to £10,000 (allocation up to £180,000 to support 18 knowledge share initiatives)

The Sub – Committee noted the questions submitted on behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the following:

- The measures to ensure that there is some level of equity and that the wider community benefits from this?. Officers stated that they were mindful of the need for the community to be fully involved in the project. Reassurances were provided that steps will be taken to ensure this.
- Lessons learnt from the previous phases. Officers drew attention to the similar Council projects, with Schools and SMEs. Officers have gained valuable experience from this about the management of projects and identifying which would have best returns.

The Committee discussed:

- The sustainability of the initiatives. It was noted that the onus would be on the organisations to maintain them. The grant funding would make it clear that they would have responsibility for this.
- Clarification was sought on some of the figures in the report.
- The Sub – Committee welcomed the project

RESOLVED:

1. Approve the grant funding of £700,000 to deliver the Carbon Reduction Community Grants Programme.
2. Authorise the Service Manager for Energy, Sustainability & Private Sector Housing and Environmental Sustainability Officer to enter into grant agreements and make any associated decisions in order to distribute the funding

6.10 Local Community Fund (LCF) Performance and Annual Update Report Oct 20 – Sep 21

Emily Fieran-Reed, (Senior Strategy and Policy Manager) presented the report, highlighting the key features of the report including:

- Amount of grants that had been awarded.
- This reported related to the second year of the programme.
- Over 21,000 people had benefited from the programme and many of these were from BME communities.

The Committee were also advised of the amendments to Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the report as set out below:

- reference to £12,000 in paragraph 4.1 should be changed to £9,000
- reference to £12,000 in paragraph 4.2 should be changed to £9,000
- reference to £18,000 in paragraph 4.3 should be changed to £9,000

The Chair and Members noted the amount of work that had gone into this, and that so many residents had benefit from the various the projects.

They thanked officers and VSC organisations for the work they had done in borough.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund programme for Oct 20 – Sep 21 as set out in 3.2 to 3.5 below and the Appendices;
2. Note the new arrangements for delivering the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as referred to in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4;

3. Delegate the Chief Executive and the Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation the decision making authority to agree and undertake appropriate actions in respect of resolution 2

6.11 Innovation Fund Update and Next Steps

Awo Ahmed, (Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer) presented the report

The purposes of this report are first, to update Grants Determination Sub-Committee on the progress of the Innovation Fund and second, to seek an extension of the current programme for a further year until the end of March 2023.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the progress and achievements to date of the Innovation Fund Programme.
2. Agree to extend the Innovation Fund grants programme until the end of March 2023, as outlined from para. 3.19 onwards
3. Agree to continue to the end of March 2023 to delegate the power to award innovation fund grants to the Director of Strategy Improvement and Transformation, in liaison with the Chair of this sub-committee.

6.12 VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority

Awo Ahmed, (Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer) presented the report

This report provides an update on funding awarded to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

It was noted that the Mayor's Covid Recovery Events Fund had now launched with a focus on reflecting community cohesion and celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, as set out in the report.

In response Members welcomed the update.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the update on funding awarded to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting.
2. Note that the cohesion events funded through the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund have launched a new round of funding to

commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of this report

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

There was none

The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Candida Ronald
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

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<p>Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee report</p> <p>Wednesday 9 March 2022</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director Place</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Grant to Toynbee Hall for a ‘Memories, Craft and Community Hub’ as part of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone programme</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment & Planning
Originating Officer(s)	Anna Zucchelli, Heritage at Risk Project Officer
Wards affected	Spitalfields & Banglatown
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	01/02/22
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in

Executive Summary

Historic England have provided funding to the Council as part of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme for a ‘Memories, Craft and Community Hub’ in a vacant shop unit to support a series of cultural and community events as part of the programme until March 2024, including the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme, managed by Toynbee Hall.

A shop unit has been identified on Wentworth Street. It is proposed that Toynbee Hall take on the lease of the shop unit and take responsibility for the space. For this to happen, funding from Historic England for this project will need to be released to Toynbee Hall in the form of a grant. Authorisation will be required from the Grants Determination Sub-Committee for this purpose.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- Approve a grant of £55,000 to Toynbee Hall for a 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub' as part of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone programme.
- Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into the grant agreement and any such other agreements required to affect the grant and the use of the grant as detailed in paragraph 1.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 A 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub' in a vacant shop unit is one of the 8 projects of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) and there is external funding for this.
- 1.2 A Community Hub will provide an opportunity to have a presence in the conservation area to engage with local businesses, residents and visitors about the high street regeneration programme and offer a space for cultural heritage events and community gathering.
- 1.3 The Hub will be used to support other projects within Petticoat Lane HSHAZ, such as the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme, which is managed by Toynbee Hall.
- 1.4 Toynbee Hall take on the lease of the vacant shop unit for 2 years. Toynbee Hall are already under contract (DRDBC.1520) to manage a Community Hub for the HSHAZ programme.
- 1.5 Toynbee Hall are a charity and therefore can get charitable rates relief, which makes the space more affordable on a limited budget.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council takes on the lease of the vacant shop unit, however this could present a risk to the Council if the space is not managed by the Council and there are not the resources for this to happen.
- 2.2 Other options have been investigated, such as a space on Goulston Street as

part of the university complex, other local community centres and hiring space at Toynbee Hall. These were not found to be suitable because a space directly on the high street would meet more of the objectives of the regeneration programme and would allow for increased engagement with local business owners, residents, and visitors.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone

- 3.1 The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) scheme is a nationwide initiative designed to secure lasting improvements to 68 historic high streets for the communities who use them. Tower Hamlets Council has been awarded £800,000 for a programme of high street improvements in the Wentworth Street Conservation Area between April 2020 and March 2024, under the name Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone. The programme contains 8 projects.
- 3.2 The HSHAZ funding contributes towards the cost of capital works projects within the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme, being delivered by the High Streets & Town Centres team - shopfront improvements on Wentworth Street and the repair and redevelopment of the Leyden Street Victorian public conveniences.
- 3.3 The HSHAZ funding also contributes towards the cost of an updated Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) for Wentworth Street, being delivered by the Place Shaping team with support on community engagement from Toynbee Hall, and a borough-wide shopfront guidance
- 3.4 Further cultural and community engagement projects include the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme, being delivered by Toynbee Hall, as well as a heritage trail and building maintenance workshops, being delivered by the London Historic Buildings Trust.
- 3.5 There is, in addition, HSHAZ funding for a 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub' in a vacant shop unit within the HSHAZ area. This space would be used to support the HSHAZ projects by providing a space for:
 - Revolving exhibitions on the cultural heritage of the area, e.g., photography, artwork
 - Space for community meetings related to the HSHAZ programme
 - Participatory activities and workshops
 - Building maintenance and crafts workshops
 - Consultation events

Grant to Toynbee Hall

- 3.6 It is proposed that Toynbee Hall would take the lease out on and take responsibility the shop unit as the 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub' for two years until March 2024. For this to happen, £55,000 of the HSHAZ funding will need to be transferred to Toynbee Hall and authorisation is required from the Grants Determination Sub-Committee.
- 3.7 Toynbee Hall are already in receipt of three other grants relating to the HSHAZ programme. All four grants are described below:

	Grant purpose	GDSC approval
1	To manage the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme and to support community engagement on HSHAZ projects, such as the Hub.	February 2021: £93,000, paid in instalments from April 2021 – March 2024
2	For a wide range of participatory community activities, cultural events, and training events within the Petticoat Lane HSHAZ Cultural Programme.	September 2021: £90,000, paid in instalments from September 2021 – March 2024
3	To support the production of an updated Appraisal & Management Plan for Wentworth Street Conservation Area with the local community.	January 2022: £40,000, paid in instalments from January 2022 to March 2022
4	To cover the set-up costs, lease and running costs of the 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub'.	March 2022: £55,000, one lump sum in March 2022

- 3.8 The funding for the grant comes from the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme, managed by Historic England and therefore there will be no cost to the Council. The grant will be administered by a Council officer, whose post is also funded by the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Toynbee Hall is a grassroots community-led organisation with extensive community engagement and outreach experience. They have excellent connections and existing networks with the local community around Wentworth Street and therefore can enable a wide range of participants in the project, including those hard to reach and BAME.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations
The Council have discussed the project with Toynbee Hall who have agreed to take on the lease of the shop unit for the HSHAZ programme.
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The Council has been awarded grant funding of c£800k from Historic England as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone grant funding scheme. This funding contributes towards the cost of shop front improvements, community engagement activities, cultural programmes and a programme manager at Wentworth Street as part of the Middlesex Street regeneration programme.
- 6.2 The grant is a combination of revenue and capital funding, with the capital element contributing towards the cost of the wider Middlesex Street regeneration for which there is separate budgetary provision within the three-year capital programme.
- 6.3 The grant covers a period of four years from April 2020 to March 2024. This report is seeking approval to enter into the grant agreement and to use £55,000 of the revenue element of this grant with Toynbee Hall to meet the set-up costs, lease and running costs of the 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub'. There is sufficient grant funding available to meet this cost in full.
- 6.4 Grant funding will be paid as a lump sum in advance in March 2022 and therefore will have no cashflow or general fund revenue budget implications for the Council.
- 6.5 There are no other budget implications from entering into this grant agreement. The activity and spend will be managed and monitored by a part time post paid for from the grant

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to make the grant referred to in this report.

- 7.2 Monitoring of the use of the grant will be supported by appropriate agreement terms. The agreement will ensure that the funding is used in compliance with the purposes stated in the main grant application with Historic England to ensure compliance with the funder's conditions.
- 7.3 Also, ensuring the grant is used in accordance with the grant agreement will assist the Council to demonstrate Best Value in line with the law.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- NONE

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

<p>Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee report</p> <p>Wednesday 9 March 2022</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director Place</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Grant increase to Toynbee Hall to support the production of an updated Plan for the Wentworth Street Conservation Area.</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment & Planning
Originating Officer(s)	Anna Zucchelli, Heritage at Risk Project Officer
Wards affected	Spitalfields & Banglatown
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	01/02/22
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in

Executive Summary

As part of the Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone, the Council has committed to update the Wentworth Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP). In January 2022, the Grants Determination Sub-Committee approved a grant of £40,324 to Toynbee Hall to work with the local community to carry out thematic surveys and archival research to feed into this updated CAAMP.

It is now proposed to increase the grant by £7,500 from £40,324 to £47,824. This will allow for effective evaluation of the project to be carried out with the community appraisers, with professional support, through a series of participatory workshops and training sessions. To release the additional grant funding to Toynbee Hall, authorisation is required from Grants Determination Sub-Committee.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- Approve an increase in grant of £7,500 to Toynbee Hall from £40,324 to £47,824 to support updating the Wentworth Street Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan.
- Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into the grant agreement and any such other agreements required to affect the grant and the use of the grant as detailed in paragraph 1.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 A grant to Toynbee Hall for this project has already been approved by the Grants Determination Sub-Committee on 12 January 2022.
- 1.2 As the project evolved, it was realised that greater evaluation on completion of the project would be beneficial and would therefore require an increase in the grant of £7,500. It was not possible to amend the report for the Grants Committee in time for the January 2022 meeting so a new report was prepared for the March 2022 meeting for this increase in grant.
- 1.3 This will allow the community appraisers to gain additional skills in evaluation of data, report-writing and presentation skills, with professional support and training. The report produced by the community appraisers will be in a better format to be presented to Council officers writing the CAAMP document. The thematic surveys will also be evaluated and improved.
- 1.4 There will be an opportunity to evaluate the successes and challenges of the project and if the project could be rolled out to other conservation areas in the future.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Without evaluation at the end of the project and there will be no means of assessing the success and value of the project to the Council, Historic England, Toynbee Hall and local people who participated.
- 2.2 There is a light-touch evaluation by the project officer at the end of the HSHAZ programme in March 2024. The scale of this evaluation would be

limited by resources and would be unlikely to capture the opinions of the community appraisers in a truly meaningful way. The community appraisers would also miss out on the opportunity to learn additional skills.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone

- 3.1 The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme, managed by Historic England, is a nationwide initiative designed to secure lasting improvements to 68 historic high streets in England for the communities who use them.
- 3.2 Tower Hamlets Council has been awarded approx. £800,000 HSHAZ funding, which contributes towards high street improvements as part of the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme. Other projects include a heritage trail, building maintenance workshops, a 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub' in a vacant shop unit, the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme, a borough-wide shopfront guidance and an updated Wentworth Street Conservation Area and Management Plan (CAAMP).
- 3.3 Toynbee Hall have been involved in the delivery of community engagement and cultural activities as part of the Petticoat Lane HSHAZ since April 2021 and have been awarded three grants for this purpose, outlined below.
 - 1) January 2021: To deliver community engagement and to manage a cultural programme as part of the Petticoat Lane HSHAZ
 - 2) September 2021: For a wide range of participatory community activities, cultural events and training events within the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme.
 - 3) January 2022: To support the production of an updated Wentworth Street CAAMP with the local community
- 3.4 In March 2022, it is proposed to offer an increase in grant to Toynbee Hall for the Wentworth Street CAAMP project to allow for evaluation of the CAAMP project, with professional support, through a series of participatory workshops. The funding from these grants is from the HSHAZ and there is therefore no cost to the Council.
- 3.5 In addition, in March 2022, it is proposed to offer a fourth grant to Toynbee Hall for a 'Memories, Craft and Community Hub' – this is subject to a separate report presented at the Grants Determinations Sub-Committee meeting for approval.

Wentworth Street CAAMP

- 3.6 The CAAMP project will involve a series of thematic surveys which will be used by paid local, trained volunteers as 'Community Appraisers' to appraise the character of the conservation area, which will include including basic condition reports and recent photographs of each asset type within the conservation area – character, shops, street scene, architectural features, open space, designated heritage assets, views, etc. A Heritage Officer has been employed by Toynbee Hall to support delivery of the project from November 2021 to October 2022. A Heritage Consultant will support the Heritage Officer in training and the execution of the surveys. A Place Shaping officer will then use the collated results and research to prepare the CAAMP document and bring it to adoption by March 2024.
- 3.7 The existing grant approved of £40,324 by the Committee in January 2022 will be used for
- A part-time Heritage Officer employed by Toynbee Hall on a one-year contract (and associated recruitment and supervisor costs)
 - Paid Community Appraisers to carry out thematic surveys and archival research
 - Training for Community Appraisers
 - Uploading of archival research findings to the Survey of London Whitechapel map
- 3.8 The additional grant funding of £7,500 now proposed will be used for:
- Data evaluation with community appraisers
 - Working with Evaluator to Determine report structure, quote gathering & testament writing time, report proofing & feedback as 3 x 2-hour workshops
 - Participatory review of data, prepare in accessible way to examine conclusions, make recommendations for final report & write up finding in charts
 - Writing Report, editing and running writing workshop x 5 days
 - Design & printing of report redesign
 - Launch Event (room booking, screen hire & refreshment costs)
- 3.9 The evaluation will enable the community appraisers to gain additional skills in data analysis and report-writing. The evaluation will help determine if the project met the aims and objectives, as well as looking at challenges that were faced, as required by Historic England. Data will also be presented in a report format which will be easier to incorporate into the final CAAMP document. If successful, the project could be a template for other conservation areas, both within Tower Hamlets and beyond.

3.10 The additional funding comes from the High Street Heritage Action Zone funding programme and there is, therefore, no cost to the Council. The grant will be administered by a Council officer whose post is funded by the same programme.

3.11 Payment of the £7,500 would be added as a final instalment of the grant to be paid at the end of the project in October 2022.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Toynbee Hall is a grassroots community-led organisation with extensive community engagement experience. They have excellent and existing connections with the local community around Wentworth Street. This local knowledge will enable the project to move forward quickly and enable engagement with residents that are harder to reach, guided by a Community Engagement Plan.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications

N/A

- Consultations

There has been consultation with Toynbee Hall on the development of this project before grant application was made to Historic England. As the project developed with Toynbee Hall, it became apparent that additional funding would be required for evaluation of the project. Historic England were consulted and have agreed to this additional spend on the project.

- Environmental (including air quality)

N/A

- Risk Management

The risk of the new Covid variants may impact how some of the project is carried out. Fortunately, some of the training and all surveys will be carried out outdoors in groups of 2-3 people and is therefore considered low risk in terms of covid spread. Other training can occur online. Archival research may have to occur online on individual laptops with home-based working rather than at the Archives themselves. Toynbee Hall will be expected to manage this risk.

- Crime Reduction

N/A

- Safeguarding

N/A

- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment

N/A

5.2 Toynbee Hall is a grassroots community-led organisation with extensive community engagement and outreach experience. They have excellent connections and existing networks with the local community around Wentworth Street and therefore can enable a wide range of participants in the project, including those hard to reach and BAME.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 The Council has been awarded grant funding of c£800k from Historic England as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone grant funding scheme. This funding contributes towards the cost of shop front improvements, community engagement activities, cultural programmes and a programme manager at Wentworth Street as part of the Middlesex Street regeneration programme.

6.2 The grant is a combination of revenue and capital funding, with the capital element contributing towards the cost of the wider Middlesex Street regeneration for which there is separate budgetary provision within the three-year capital programme.

6.3 The grant covers a period of four years from April 2020 to March 2024. This report is seeking approval to enter into the grant agreement and to use £47,824 of the revenue element of this grant with Toynbee Hall to provide community engagement activities between January 2022 and October 2022. This represents an increase of £7,500 from that previously approved. There is sufficient grant funding available to meet this cost in full.

6.4 Funding from Historic England is to be paid in quarterly instalments in arrears until March 2024. This funding will then be used to pay Toynbee Hall in a similar manner – quarterly in arrears, therefore having no cashflow or general fund revenue budget implications for the Council.

6.5 There are no other budget implications from entering into this grant agreement. The activity and spend will be managed and monitored by a part time post paid for from the grant

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to implement this grant funding increase.
- 7.2 The grant increase does not otherwise impact on the reasons for the original grant decision. The increase in grant will be included in the initial grant agreement and monitored in the same way to ensure that the funds are used for the reasons they have been given and deliver best value in line with the original report
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Grant offer to Toynbee Hall to support the production of an updated Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan for the Wentworth Street Conservation Area – presented at GDSC on 12 January 2022

Appendices

- NONE

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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<p>Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee report</p> <p>9th March 2022</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director Place</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Public Realm Improvements (Private Land Agreement) – Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme</p>	

Lead Member	<p>Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman Councillor Asma Islam (Environment & Planning)</p>
Originating Officer(s)	<p>Ross Hughes – Programme Manager High Streets Chris Burr – Head of Growth</p>
Wards affected	<p>Spitalfields & Banglatown</p>
Key Decision?	<p>No</p>
Reason for Key Decision	<p>N/A</p>
Forward Plan Notice Published	<p>8th February 2022</p>
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	<p>A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in</p>

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to set-up a grant scheme under the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme to carry out public realm improvements to the unused space on the corner of 13 New Goulston Street, E1 7TF (otherwise referred to as New Goulston Corner) in the Middlesex Street area.
- 1.2 The grant scheme cost is estimated at £300,000 (inc. design fees and contingency). This project will be from the Middlesex Street Regeneration programme which is funded via S106 and CIL.
- 1.3 The project is to be delivered as a grant scheme due to majority of the works will be on private land owned by East End Homes, the delivery of the scheme will commence in April 2022 and completed by March 31st, 2023.
- 1.4 The scope of improvements under the grant scheme includes: resurfacing the open space and providing new York stone paving, removing all the tired bollards, providing a new community garden for the school and local residents, installation of new street furniture including benches and planters, providing trees and planting to soften the area.
- 1.5 The aim of this grant scheme is to provide visitors to the area and Petticoat Lane Market a place to sit and enjoy the market. It will create an area where

people can relax, provide some elements of green to an urban area, protecting and enhancing the appearance of the conservation area and in-turn help promoting footfall and business recovery. The space has also been very vulnerable to fly-tipping and the creation of this seating area will mitigate any opportunity of this in the future.

- 1.6 The owner of this piece of land, East End Homes, has engaged positively with the High Streets team regarding this scheme and other projects within the Middlesex Street Regeneration programme. The piece of land is also in a long lease arrangement with a company called Uniboss, who have also responded positively to the plans and will believe it will help them identify more attractive businesses to the vacant 13 New Goulston Street property.
- 1.7 The Council, East End Homes and Uniboss (the specific parties involved) will be required to sign a formal Agreement setting out the scope of works, cost of the scheme, maintenance plans and committing to manage the upkeep of the space and improvements once work is completed. The long-term responsibility of repair will be with East End Homes and the ongoing cleanliness of the site will be carried out by Uniboss.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the public realm improvement grant for the Middlesex Street area.
2. To approve the cost and funding of the project.
3. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme was approved by Cabinet in September 2019, in which one of the agreed schemes in this programme is to improve the public realm, creating spaces that provide seating, clean up untidy areas to make the area more attractive to visitors, provide some greening to soften the hard appearance of the area.
- 1.2 A feasibility study was carried out in January 2021 to provide a public realm analysis of the Middlesex Street area. The study looked at: footway widths, available public space and areas of disrepair and in need of immediate improvements to serve the area. The study concluded that New Goulston Square corner was a high priority as a space that would benefit greatly from physical improvements. The open space is in sightline from Whitechapel Road/Goulston Street junction is, a key gateway to Petticoat Lane Market. The space is surrounded by food market stalls Monday-Friday and then

clothing stalls on Sunday. The works are an opportunity to provide visitors with space to sit and enjoy their food and appreciate the market. It will also help 13 New Goulston Street by attracting high-value commercial tenants to the properties by providing spill space for outdoor dining and creating character for a café/restaurant type.

- 1.3 Wentworth Street Conservation Area is listed on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register due to loss of historic details and inappropriate change, including lack of maintenance. These factors threaten the special historic character of the conservation and put it at risk of losing its designation. Improving the layout of the area and creating places for people to rest, sit and enjoy will help improve the perception of the area which is that it is unattractive and has a limited offer.
- 1.4 Local businesses have struggled to trade during the last two years due to the outbreak of coronavirus causing lockdowns across the country, this work will be helping key local traders from the famous Petticoat Lane Market who have been acutely impacted during the pandemic. Many City workers visit this area for lunch but there is nowhere for them to sit and eat lunch in a pleasant environment. 13 New Goulston Street has also been vacant for some time and is an ideal location for a café/restaurant type business, improving this space will attract attention from more desired tenants to support the high street.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Option 1 – Request the Leaseholder or Freeholder makes improvements to the area and provide more greening and cleaner surfacing. This option is unviable due to either having insufficient funding to support the project.
- 2.2 Option 2 – Do not carry out this work. This option is rejected as this area is suffering from lack of investment and the area is vulnerable to fly-tipping, anti-social behaviour and is an eyesore for many residents and visitors. Without this investment, it is very likely this area will continue on a downward trajectory and soon become a very unsafe space for visitors or any potential business that would want to take over 13 New Goulston Street.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Background

- 3.1 The Middlesex Street area shopfront improvement scheme is part of the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme and supports the Mayor's commitment to continue to invest in local high streets and town centres and delivery of the High Streets & Town Centres Strategy (2017–2022).

- 3.2 The regeneration programme consists of improvements to the area that will help increase footfall to the area; improve the physical quality of the area; and invest unused assets that will benefit the local community and visitors.
- 3.3 These programme works include: public realm improvements, Leyden Street toilet refurbishment, Petticoat Lane Market improvements and the Shopfront Improvement scheme.
- 3.4 The Middlesex Street area public realm scheme will help to address known weaknesses in the town centre. In particular, the lack of seating and greening in the area and create a feel of unwelcomeness to one of the Council's most famous markets. This work will support the other continued work including the Leyden Street Toilet Refurbishments and Shopfront Improvement Scheme on Wentworth Street. The whole site is also within the conservation area, the Council has a moral responsibility to maintain care of these historic areas.
- 3.5 The contribution to the works will also provide a community garden in the neighbouring premises of the East End Community School [33-35 Goulston Street]. This will be used by the students of the school and local community. We will provide new planters and flower beds, where vegetables, herbs and flowers can be grown. The Community Garden will be managed by the East End Community School staff.

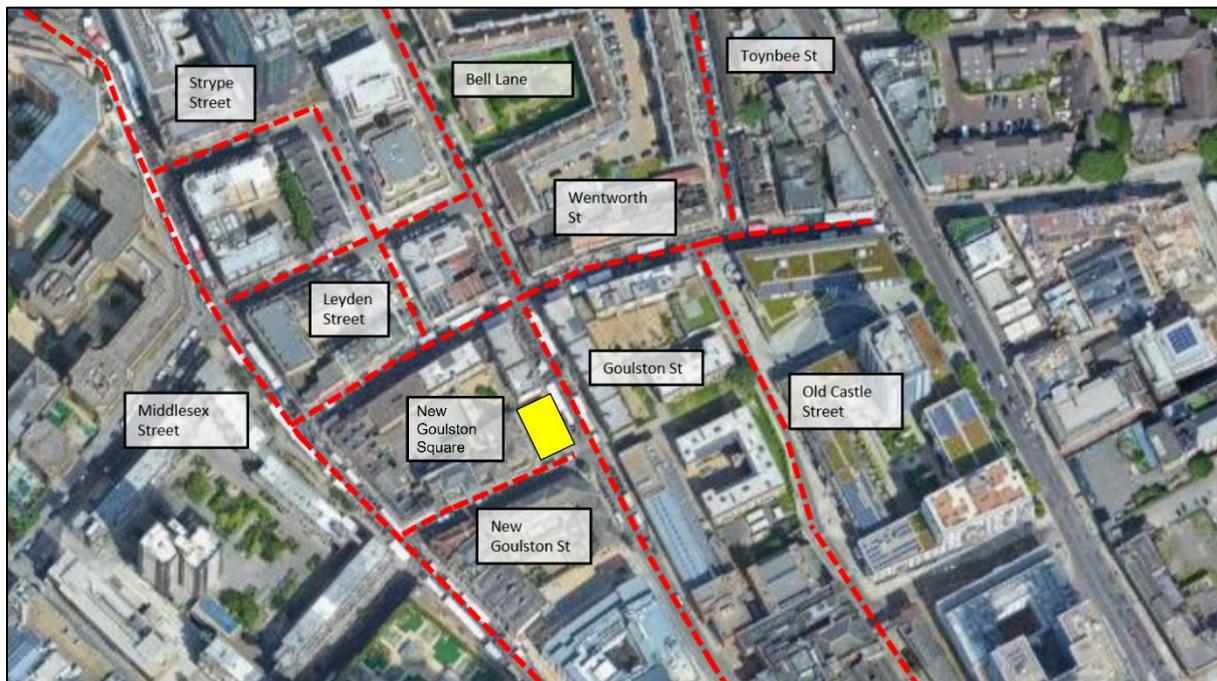


Image 1.0: Map of Middlesex Street Regeneration Area

- 3.6 The Middlesex Street area has mainly independent family-run businesses including a cluster of African fabric shops, vape shops, mobile repair businesses, hairdressers and fashion shops that have had little investment from the landlords to make improvements to their frontages and are unable to

fully fund the improvements themselves. The market has also suffered from lack of investment into the high street and public realm which has made it an undesirable place for visitors to come. The work to help transform these areas of poor public realm will create a place of enjoyment for people.

- 3.7 Other improvements for Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme include the shopfront improvement scheme to key high street businesses and key nodal properties in the Middlesex Street area. This work is being match funded by the High Street Action Zone (HAZ) grant from Historic England, with the purpose of reviving Conservation Areas and reinstating traditional timber shopfronts as well as making improvements to the upper facades of historic properties that have deterred overtime from lack of investment. The Council have also agreed with the landlords of these businesses to contribute 10% towards the works, whereas the 90% will come from the Council. There is also the redevelopment of the Leyden Street Toilets to provide a new space for a commercial tenant and accessible public toilet, wayfinding & signage, banners along Wentworth Street and providing new uniformed market stalls for Petticoat Lane Market traders; this is also being partly funded by the HAZ grant.
- 3.8 Other projects as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) scheme include an updated Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Wentworth Street, a borough-wide shopfront guidance, building maintenance workshops and a community-led cultural programme managed by Toynbee Hall.

Budget

- 3.9 At the time the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme was approved, the budget estimate for the public realm scheme was £600,000. There has been no change and £300,000 will be put towards the Leyden Street public realm works and the other £300,000 towards the New Goulston Square public realm works.
- 3.10 Neil Tomlinson Architects and Yomi Bola Associates provided an indicative cost of £300,000 for the public realm improvements, which include redevelopment of the square outside 13 New Goulston Square, new paving, benches, planters and trees; as well as cleaning of 33-35 Goulston Street space, new planters for a community garden that will have restricted access. The team has included contingency within this budget for potential cost increases from Brexit, Covid delays and inflation within the construction sector.
- 3.11 The current view of the space can be seen below:



Image 2.0: New Goulston Square (view from Goulston Street)



Image 2.1: New Goulston Square (view from New Goulston Street)

3.12 The proposed views and concepts for the New Goulston Square designs can be seen in the images below:



Image 3.0: New Goulston Square (NT Architects CGI)



Image 3.1: New Goulston Square (NT Architects CGI)



Image 3.2: New Goulston Square Layout (NT Architects CGI)

- 3.13 We are now drafting a legal agreement between the Freeholder (East End Homes), Leaseholder (UNIBOSS & East End Community School) and the Council for the upkeep and maintenance plan of the area.
- 3.14 The freeholder has agreed to maintain and care for the area for the duration of the lifespan expectancy of the street furniture (20 years). Following this amount of time, it is stated in the agreement for all parties to review the current maintenance regime and the future plans of the area from the freeholder and leaseholder.
- 3.15 Following discussion with Legal Services, we have been advised that the decision to spend funding in this way would be considered a discretionary grant and therefore approval to carry out these works on East End Homes land would need to be sought from the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee.
- 3.16 The High Streets Team appointed Neil Tomlinson Architects 11th January 2021 as the detailed design architects and will have been undertaking surveys work of the area (inc. archaeological, measured, topographical). The specification has been drafted and reviewed by the internal highways, waste, markets and community safety teams also.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme Public Realm Improvement Scheme will have no adverse impact upon any of the protected characteristics as identified within the Equality Act 2010.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:
- Best Value Implications,
 - Consultations,
 - Environmental (including air quality),
 - Risk Management,
 - Crime Reduction,
 - Safeguarding.
 - Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.
- 5.2 Neil Tomlinson Architects have previous experience in the design and analysis of public realm schemes and key high streets across London, including high density market areas such as Borough Market. They are well versed in the current market and have engaged with local institutions in the Spitalfields area to understand the context and historical significance of the area. At the feasibility stage, we undertook a costings exercise with Neil Tomlinson Architects & Yomi Bola Associates to ensure best value for money

as well as setting out the priority public realm areas that would get best value and would benefit most from the improvement works.

- 5.3 As part of their tender submission as detailed design architect, they have appointed a quantity surveyor (Yomi Bola Associates) as part of the project team. They are also experienced in grant-aided Council-led heritage townscape improvement schemes.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report seeks approval to set-up a grant scheme under the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme to carry out public realm improvements on part public and private land to help support the Petticoat Lane Market and create a cleaner and safer environment in the Middlesex Street area.
- 6.2 Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme is in the council's approved capital programme with a revised budget of £0.8m for 2021/22 and £0.6m for 2022/23 of which the spend to date is £0.5m.
- 6.3 This project delivers public realm improvement that will benefit partially an external body and the funding is considered to be discretionary and a grant.
- 6.4 This project is included as part of the existing council approved capital programme. The funding of the project will be via Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies and S106 funds and all project costs must be contained within the budget.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to implement the grant scheme described in this report.
- 7.2 The money referred to in this report will effect works that will improve the value of the land owned by East End Homes. Therefore, the value of the improvement of the asset is a grant made from the Council to East End Homes.
- 7.3 The Council will commission the works in accordance with its procurement duties and will also use the process to ensure that the subsequent works represent statutory Best Value. The maintenance agreement will be used to ensure that the up front investment is maximised in terms of area improvement throughout the following 20 year term of maintenance.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None.

Appendices

- Neil Tomlinson: TWR004-Goulston Square-(OP3) (002)
- NTA_Existing Public Realm Analysis-Document A
- NTA_Preliminary Public Realm Opportunities

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

- None.

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

Grants Determination Sub Committee Wednesday 9 March 2022		
Report of: Will Tuckley, Chief Executive		Classification: Unrestricted
Development of Voluntary Sector and Community Sector (VCS) Grant Programmes		
Lead Member	Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector	
Originating Officer(s)	Emily Fieran-Reed, Strategy & Policy Lead Mark Waterman, Senior VCS Development Officer	
Wards affected	All wards	
Key Decision?	Yes	
Reason for Key Decision	Could be under (a) to result in the relevant local authority incurring revenue or capital expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are in excess of £1,000,000. and (b) to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.	
Forward Plan Notice Published	16 th February 2022	
Exempt information	N/A	
Strategic Priority Outcome / Plan	Priority 1 – People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities Priority 2 - A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in Priority 3 - A dynamic, outcomes-based council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough	

Executive Summary

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) plays a crucial role in Tower Hamlets. Its importance to the borough has been particularly evident in its contribution to the response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council-funded VCS services, such as the Local Community Fund (LCF) and Infrastructure & Capacity Building Grant have played a very important role in that work.

The importance of continuity in support to the VCS requires the council to extend current grant programmes beyond their planned end date. This will enable the council to have sufficient time to develop and agree longer-term funding options for the VCS. These extended end dates would avoid a scenario where funding programmes for the VCS have concluded before new funding options become operational. It is thus being recommended that the end date for the various grants programme be extended as set out in recommendations 2,3 & 4 below, in order that local residents can continue to benefit from these programme's services.

Funding extensions for these grant programmes would enable the council to fully commence the development of its long-term funding proposals for the VCS. It is estimated that this process would take 21 months, with initial examination of funding options for the VCS having already commenced in January 2022. This process would involve development of funding proposals in partnership with VCS and other stakeholders and then through the council's governance process. This would enable new council funding for the VCS to commence from October 2023.

Recommendations:

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the plans to develop long-term proposals for funding for the VCS.
2. Agree to extend the scheduled end date for the Local Community Fund (LCF), Small Grants programme and Innovation Fund by 6 months, from 31st March 2023 to 30th September 2023.
3. Agree to extend the scheduled end date for the Infrastructure & Capacity Building Grants Programme by 18 months, from 30th September 2022 to 31st March 2024.
4. Agree to extend the scheduled end date for the Emergency Fund by 2 years, from 31st March 2022 to 31st March 2024.
5. Note the termination of the Covid Community Fund in March 2022
6. Agree the carry over of £39,500 of Emergency funding from the April 2021-March 2022 financial year to the April 2022-March 2023 financial year (the total of £39,500 to be carried over may be reduced if any further grant awards are made prior to 31st March 2022).

7. All agreements to external funding beyond 2022-23 will be subject to Cabinet and Council approval of future years budgets,

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- It is important for the council to develop longer-term funding options for the VCS in the borough to enable the sector to continue to respond to the pandemic and support the recovery process in Tower Hamlets. This would confirm the council's commitment as a partner to the VCS. The estimated time-frame involved in properly and appropriately developing long-term funding options for the VCS is 21 months. Work to develop a programme therefore needs to become fully operational as soon as possible. The council needs to avoid a scenario where there is a risk that there is a gap in its' primary source of funding for the VCS. The 21 month time-frame to develop long-term funding options for the VCS would result in new council funding options for the VCS commencing in October 2023, six months past the current end date for the council's current main funding programme the LCF .
 - To complement the extension of the LCF programme, and in order for funding to be aligned and the development of future funding options coordinated, it would be necessary to extend funding timetables for a number of council grant programmes for the VCS which support the delivery of and/or complement the LCF programme.
- 1.4 The council needs to approve the carry over of £39,500 of Emergency funding from the April 2021-March 2022 financial year to the April 2022-March 2023 financial year. These funds need to be available to support VCS organisations who require support in the next financial year, particularly if they face a financial emergency.
- 1.5 The Covid Community Fund should be terminated in March 2022 as this fund was to enable organisations to adapt to the initial pandemic emergency. It is anticipated that in future, the ongoing general improvement in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue and VCS organisations will have adapted plans which will enable them to provide their services on a more normal footing.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- An alternative would be to retain the existing grant programme end dates. The council does not approve extension funding for its various grant programmes for the VCS to ensure that these programmes are in operation until the new long-term funding arrangements commence in October 2023. This option makes it likely that it would result in significant interim periods when important services supporting residents are not in operation. This would risk temporary closure of VCS services, with resultant deterioration in community outcomes, threats to many VCS organisations' long-term financial future and loss of credibility for the council.

- Another alternative is that the council does not work with the VCS to develop longer-term funding options for the VCS in Tower Hamlets. This option would remove VCS services from the vital and central role they play in the borough and would contradict the council's commitment to partnership working with the VCS.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

BACKGROUND

- Tower Hamlets VCS Strategy 2020-2024 highlights the longstanding importance of the VCS to the borough, its crucial role in the response to the pandemic and the vital role that the VCS will play in the recovery process. As well as the contribution from the VCS organisations that the Council commissions¹, the importance of the VCS has been highlighted by organisations, particularly Local Community Fund (LCF) projects, who have been able to adapt their services and adopt innovative service delivery techniques, such as the delivery of virtually-based services, to continue to support local residents, particularly those who have been most impacted by the pandemic.
- Throughout the pandemic, LCF providers have demonstrated the flexible, strong, and cohesive VCS that exists in the borough. LCF projects have strengthened and developed partnership working, increased volunteer capacity and focused their activities on those most important to supporting local residents during a challenging period. Since the end of lockdown, LCF projects have retained some of their successful methods of engaging virtually with local residents, as well as returning to delivering in-person services.
- Examples of key VCS interventions to respond to the pandemic, include:
 - the COVID-19 Volunteering Hub, managed by Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets (VCTH), which has registered 3,669 volunteers between March 2020 and January 2022 to support the response to the pandemic and recovery in the borough
 - the Food Hub, which has involved the council, VCTH and food banks working with 27 VCS organisations to supply and deliver food to high risk or self-isolating residents.
- The LCF programme has had significant successes in delivery of its services focusing on improving quality of life for local residents, addressing issues brought about by inequality, and responding to the needs of marginalised groups. The programme has succeeded in providing support to residents from a wide range of groups, including people from socially excluded communities who have been particularly disadvantaged during the pandemic. This support

¹ The Council commissions around £25 million of services from the VCS each year

has enabled local residents to develop their lives and widen their opportunities, and has included:

- working with families to enable young people to thrive in more positive family environments
 - supporting older people to maintain independence through community-based services and befriending projects
 - working with adults with complex needs to achieve better health outcomes and improved life expectancy
 - empowering older people to do a wide array of things online, from making GP appointments to accessing online employment support workshops
 - enabling children to stay safe on-line, including assisting parents to gain skills and knowledge in this area
 - improving employment and progression opportunities for residents from population groups that are disadvantaged in the labour market - disabled people, women, young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training)
 - promoting community safety in the borough, including working with schools and the Pupil Referral Unit to support young people excluded from schools, and providing early intervention and support to families who have fled to one of the council's refuges.
-
- Between October 2020 and September 2021 the programme delivered support to 27,431 residents in Tower Hamlets. Significant proportions of these beneficiaries were from protected characteristic groups that often experience difficulty in accessing appropriate and effective services, including:
 - 74% were from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities
 - 29% were disabled
 - 58% were women

 - As confirmed by the LCF Annual Report² notable achievements delivered by projects in the LCF programme between October 2020-September 2021 included:
 - £25.5 million of income increased or backdated and £2.5 million of residents' personal debt reduced or written off
 - over 1,000 people participated in commemorative events delivered by LCF-supported theatre organisations
 - 811 service users from projects promoting healthy living and choices reported improved fitness and well-being, reduced isolation and loneliness
 - 600 children, young people and parents received support on on-line safety, including receiving support on suitable prevention measures

² Local Community Fund and Infrastructure & Capacity Building Fund Annual Report - Oct 2020- Sep 2021 was submitted to Grants Determination Sub-Committee (GDSC) on 12th January 2022.

- 193 young people were supported by intergenerational projects to be seen to be a positive part of the community.
- A total of 126 grants have been awarded through the Small Grants Programme between 2019-2021. The Programme supports grassroots VCS organisations to address a range of issues facing local residents, including welfare, unemployment and housing. The successful progress of the Programme can be seen in the key achievements of the 28 projects that have now completed and reported back on the reach and impact of their work, as outlined in the 2020-2021 Annual Report³, (many projects had not been able to report back in 2021 because of the pandemic), including:
 - 1,999 residents engaged in activities for the first time
 - 6,334 residents engaged in funded projects
 - 448 residents volunteered with projects
 - 3,178 residents took part in community activities
 - 2,065 residents took part in creative activities
- Between October 2020-September 2021 the Infrastructure and Capacity Building Programme provided casework and support to 131 unique VCS organisations and a total of 319 engagements. This Programme has a successful track record in assisting VCS organisations to secure external funding with over £750,000 brought into the borough.
- Since it was launched in 2017, the Innovation Fund has supported 26 initiatives via £145,848 of awards, covering a broad range of projects. As of January 2022 there were 2,249 pledges of crowdfunding financial support from backers for Innovation Fund projects. As of 14th December 2021, £688,375 of pledged funding, including the above £145,848 Innovation Fund allocation, had been secured to support successful pitches since the scheme was launched. Local residents have been able to benefit from a wide range of projects supported by the Innovation Fund and matching crowdfunding, including a COVID-19 food bank; IT equipment donation project for young people in education; winter cycling programme, summer boxing club to provide a safe environment for children and young people.
- As of January 2022, VCS organisations in Tower Hamlets had secured £16.5 million in grants from external funding to help them respond to the pandemic. This is the fifteenth highest total for a borough in the UK and the tenth highest for a borough in London. VCS organisations are assisted in their efforts to obtain external funding – e.g. from charitable trusts – if they are receiving funding from their local council.
- Continued council funding for the VCS would support the sector to lever in external funding for new services, building upon its successful track record during the pandemic. If the council ceased to develop such options for the VCS then this would have a significant impact on access to a range of

³ Tower Hamlets Council Small Grants Fund 2020 – 21 Annual Report was submitted to GDSC on 23rd June 2021.

services for local residents and have considerable impact on the viability of key local VCS organisations.

PROPOSAL AND RATIONALE

- It is proposed to extend the existing Local Community Fund (LCF) programme by 6 months from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023. The importance of the LCF programme to residents of Tower Hamlets has been highlighted in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.6 above. It is crucial that there is not a gap in council flagship funding for the VCS between April to September 2023 as this would be highly detrimental to local residents who rely on these services. Many of these residents are from socially excluded groups, who have been particularly disadvantaged by the pandemic: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities, disabled people (including people with sensory impairments), older people, people with mental health support needs, young people who are NEET. It is important that there is no gap in flagship VCS services for local residents as this would result in a deterioration of their immediate, and potentially long-term, needs. It would also lead to increased demands on already hard pressed local statutory sector services. The recovery process from the pandemic for local residents requires continued delivery of vital VCS services.
- To complement the extension of the LCF programme and enable the development of future options to be coordinated across grant programmes, it would be necessary for the council to approve funding extensions for a number of complementary and supportive council-funded VCS programmes.
- This should include a six month funding extension for the Small Grants programme, from 1st April 2023 to 30th September 2023. There is a need to ensure that the Small Grant Programme continues to be aligned to the LCF programme, as it provides funding for smaller VCS organisations who have played a crucial role in the pandemic response, particularly in relation to residents from socially excluded groups. The Small Grants Programme focuses on areas where demands from local residents have increased during the pandemic - welfare, unemployment and housing. The continued delivery of this Programme would ensure that local socially excluded residents continue to benefit from the grassroots support of its projects. This extension would underline the council's commitment to smaller VCS organisations and recognise their valuable contribution to the borough, particularly at a neighbourhood level.
- A six month funding extension is proposed for the Innovation Fund in order that the review of council longer-term funding options for the VCS can consider all VCS grant funding programmes together. The Innovation Fund has been effective in supporting local VCS organisations to introduce and deliver innovative and successful projects. It is a key plank in the council's commitment to support the VCS to diversify its income base and brings in significant match funding for crowdfunding initiatives to pilot new services and initiatives, including those to help the recovery process in the borough.
- An eighteen-month funding extension is proposed for the Infrastructure & Capacity Building Grants Programme, from 30th September 2022 to 31st

March 2024. It is essential that this Programme is extended for the following reasons:

- To support the development and implementation of long-term funding options through consultation and engagement with the VCS.
 - To provide direct advice to VCS organisations on how to submit effective funding applications for new funding arrangements relating to new longer-term council funding options for the VCS that would succeed the current grant programmes
 - To provide support to VCS organisations, particularly those who experience a reduction in funding on commencement of the new programme.
 - To support the continued implementation of VCS Strategy. Volunteering has been one of the Strategy's key priorities in its first year and it is vital that the council demonstrates a funding commitment to support volunteering infrastructure in Tower Hamlets. The Infrastructure & Capacity Building Grants Programme has funded VCTH to deliver the COVID-19 Volunteering Hub work to support volunteering in VCS organisations in the borough to respond to the pandemic and assist recovery.
 - To continue to support LCF providers where needed, thereby facilitating the smooth running of the remainder of the programme.
 - To provide ongoing development support for VCS organisations, particularly small to medium size VCS organisations that most need this support.
- A two year funding extension is proposed for the Emergency Fund, from 31st March 2022 to 31st March 2024. This extension is required to provide support to VCS organisations who may face major and unforeseen financial emergencies as a result of the pandemic and significant loss of funding. It will be necessary for this to be in place during the transition period from LCF to the new programme/s. It is important that the council has this option of support for financially threatened organisations, providing them with short-term funding for vital elements of their organisation's infrastructure and services, ensuring that they remain in existence to serve Tower Hamlets residents. If these organisations are not able to continue for financial reasons, this would remove vital services for local residents and have a negative impact on the council's reputation. Council support for VCS organisations through Emergency Funding is usually accompanied by support for the organisation to develop long-term funding options, often with the support of the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS), including THCVS Support through the Infrastructure & Capacity Building Grants Programme, to ensure their long-term future.

- The Covid Community Fund, which was established as a short term programme, should be terminated in March 2022. It is anticipated that the ongoing general improvement in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic will continue and VCS organisations will be able to resume their services on a more normal footing, whilst assimilating new and useful practices adopted during the pandemic where possible– e.g. digitally delivered services. The need for the Covid Community Fund would hopefully therefore be removed.
- The committee is also asked to agree the carry over of £39,500 of Emergency funding from the April 2021-March 2022 financial year to the April 2022-March 2023 financial year. These funds need to be available to support VCS organisations who require support in the next financial year if they face a financial emergency. The total of £39,500 to be carried over may be reduced if any VCS organisations’ applications for use of these funds are approved before 31st March 2022.
- The above proposed extensions of funding programmes for the VCS would involve the following costs

Local Community Fund (six months extension)	£1,336,078
Small Grants Programme (six months extension)	£186,250
Emergency Fund (two years extension)	£200,000
Infrastructure & Capacity Building Grants Programme (18 month extension)	£390,000
Innovation Fund (six months extension)	£42,500
Total costs	£2,154,828

TIMETABLE AND APPROACH TO DEVELOPING NEW FUNDING OPTIONS

- The VCS Strategy highlights the importance of partnership work between the VCS, the council and key stakeholder organisations in the borough. This commitment to partnership work and safeguarding the existence of a thriving VCS in the borough reinforces the need for the council to ensure it works closely with the VCS to develop longer-term funding options for that sector. It is important to work with the local VCS to develop sustainable and credible funding options to ensure a strong and vibrant VCS in Tower Hamlets and the continued delivery of vital VCS services for local residents, many of whom are vulnerable or from socially excluded communities.
- The potential for working with the VCS to develop longer-term funding options has been somewhat restricted by the ongoing demands of the pandemic on both the VCS and the council, including restrictions on the council’s ability to consult and engage the wider VCS in the usual ways. VCS organisations’ primary focus has been on delivering services to local residents impacted by covid. Plans to develop long-term funding options for the VCS now need to be fully operationalised. Initial desk based review work has commenced from January 2022.
- This timetable sees the new arrangements for the VCS scheduled to commence in October 2023. Set alongside the existing grant programme end dates, there would be a six month gap between the conclusion of the LCF,

Small Grants and Innovation Fund programmes in March 2023 and the start of the new arrangements. It would not be acceptable to have a six month period when there is no council primary funding programme for the VCS in operation as this would result in the loss of important services for local residents – with resultant unmanageable increases in demand on already overstretched statutory sector services. It would also threaten the future existence of many VCS organisations and result in a loss of credibility for the council with the VCS, local residents and partners in the statutory and private sector.

- The development work to introduce longer-term funding options for the VCS would involve a number of different stages and tasks. The timescales are based on adapting the LCF development timeframe and are necessitated by ensuring the funding programme/s respond fully to identified needs in the community and address crucial considerations, such as equalities issues, as well as allowing time for the relevant committee processes and notice and transition periods to new funding arrangements. In total, it is estimated that the development of longer-term council funding options for the VCS would require a timeframe of approximately 21 months, from the development of initial proposals at officer level within the council, to the commencement of new funding programme/s in October 2023. As well as the development of options and taking proposals through the council's governance process, this work would include consultation and engagement with the VCS and would conclude with processes to enable VCS organisations to apply for funding and a smooth transition to be made to the new arrangements.
- The extension of the LCF programme by six months would require council officers to negotiate extensions in funding agreements for LCF projects with VCS organisations, including reaching agreement with these organisations on outcomes and KPIs that would be delivered during the extension period. In most cases, it is anticipated that this will be straightforward. In some cases, for example, where the extension period would require the project to recruit new beneficiaries, there will be a need for some flexibility on the part of both the council and VCS organisations in regard to reaching agreement on what is delivered by LCF projects during the extension period.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- An Equality Impact Analysis Screening has been carried out for the recommendations outlined in this paper. It has found that the proposals are likely to have no or minimal disproportionately adverse impacts, directly or indirectly, on any protected characteristic group.
- A full Equality Analysis was undertaken on the LCF programme in 2019. The analysis identified some potentially negative impacts relating to age, race and disability and these were addressed by initiating activity outside the LCF programme including new themes developed for the Small Grants Programme and a number of contracts with VCS organisations: Areas included:
 - Access and Participation

- Community Support Services for Older People
 - Commissioned Services contracts to address key areas:
 - Young People's Mental Health
 - Early Years
 - Young People's Disability Sports
 - Young Carers
- LCF Mitigation projects have been providing additional services for a number of these service areas relating to protected characteristic groups – support for families who have health and social care needs; mental health support services for young people; support for young carers; sport for disabled people and people with special educational needs.
 - When the Small Grants Programme was agreed at the 31st July 2019 Cabinet new themes were agreed for the Programme to support projects which would combat social isolation of older people, particularly in BAME communities, and to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities.
 - The equality analysis checklist assessment carried out prior to Grant Determination Sub Committee approving the Infrastructure & Capacity Building Grants Programme in July 2019 suggested that the transition from funding under theme 4 of the MSG Programme, for VCS infrastructure support services, to the Infrastructure and Capacity Building theme of the new corporate grant programme would have no disproportionate negative equality implications. The continued focus on community cohesion within the new programme, and the particular priority to support smaller organisations without paid staff, would tend to have a positive impact for organisations and community groups whose activities focus on people with protected equalities characteristics as these are often volunteer led and may have limited resources.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The carry forward request of £39.5k is currently showing as a forecast underspend as at P10 but the agreement of this carry forward into 2022-23 will be subject to S151 Chief Finance Officer approval at year-end.
- 6.2 The grant payments detailed in this report are from budgets held in the remainder of this financial year and also from budgets in 2022-23 and 2023-24. There is sufficient budget to cover these grant payments up until March 2023. All agreements to funding beyond this date will be subject to Cabinet and Council approval of future years budgets.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to undertake the activities referred to in this report.
- 7.2 The Council should agree the relevant targets and activities with each provider to which an extension relates. This means that the Council can review performance and ensure that both the funds are used for their intended purposes and that the relevant activities achieve their objectives. This will assist the Council to demonstrate the achievement of Best Value.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- NONE

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

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

Or state N/A

<p>Grants Sub Committee</p> <p>Wednesday 9 March 2022</p>	
<p>Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place</p>	<p>Classification: [Unrestricted or Exempt]</p>
<p>Aberfeldy Pocket Park - Grant offer to Poplar HARCA using Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) to support the design and delivery of a pocket park, public realm improvements and engagement near Dee Street</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Asma Islam, Cabinet Member for Environment & Planning
Originating Officer(s)	David Tolley, Head of Environmental Health & Trading Standards
Wards affected	Lansbury ward
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	– see forthcoming decisions webpage]
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Priority 2: A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in/People live in a borough that is clean and green.

Executive Summary

The Environmental Health & Trading Standards service (EHTS) has secured £100,000 funding from the LIF, specifically allocated for green infrastructure projects in LIF Area 3 (Poplar and Limehouse), to design and deliver the Aberfeldy Pocket park – a green infrastructure and public realm improvement project in Lansbury ward.

This project would be delivered in partnership with Poplar HARCA, a local housing and community and regeneration association. Poplar HARCA is leading the regeneration of Aberfeldy estate, as part of the Aberfeldy LLP (a joint venture between Poplar HARCA and EcoWorld). The Council is currently working in partnership with Poplar HARCA on several air quality, climate change and active travel initiatives.

A concept proposal for the Aberfeldy Pocket park was presented to the Council's Environmental Health and Trading Standards Service by Poplar HARCA on behalf of Aberfeldy LLP. The proposal provided the background and rationale for green infrastructure and public realm interventions on an area of land owned by Transport for London between Dee Street, Culloden Primary School and an A12 pedestrian underpass linking the Aberfeldy and Brownfield estates. The proposal includes ideas for boxed trees and planters, seating, green walls and lighting improvements, with the aim of improving the experience of pedestrians and school pupils that use the area, whilst addressing high levels of air pollution, safety concerns relating to the pedestrian underpass and a poor quality public realm. The project aims to engage local stakeholders and school children in co-designing and delivering the pocket park.

Recommendations:

The Sub – Committee is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to issue a formal offer of grant to Poplar HARCA up to £100,000 of LIF to, to take forward and directly deliver the Aberfeldy Parklet
2. Delegate the Corporate Director Place via the LIF Working Group the power to undertake appropriate actions in respect of all matters concerning the management and monitoring of the grant.
3. Delegate the Corporate Director Place the power to authorise the execution of any agreements necessary to give effect to recommendation 1 and 2.
4. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment / specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 The LIF greening programme 2021-23 has a total budget of £400,000 for green infrastructure projects, of which £200,000 has been allocated to LIF Area 3.
- 1.2 The Aberfeldy pocket park proposal falls within LIF Area 3. Poplar HARCA has put forward a budget of £125,000 to design and deliver green infrastructure, public realm interventions and associated engagement activities. Poplar HARCA has secured £25,000 of cash and in-kind match funding through Aberfeldy LLP, including responsibility for the pocket park's future maintenance, therefore requiring £100,000 from the LIF fund. Although the LIF working group has approved £100,000 for this project, it is a scalable

project, and the full amount may not be required. Any remaining balance will be re allocated to other greening projects in LIF 3.

- 1.3 This part of the borough suffers from poor air quality, limited tree cover and few quality green spaces. The pocket park is a green infrastructure project which aims to reduce residents' and school children's exposure to air pollution through tree planting and green walls. It also seeks to turn an area of poor quality public realm, located between a pedestrian underpass, an entrance to Culloden Primary School and the A12, into a much improved space where pedestrians, school children and parents feel safer and more comfortable walking and cycling.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 **The Council directly delivers the Aberfeldy Pocket Park** - This is considered less practical and cost effective than the recommended option, for the following reasons:
- **Resource** – The project will be administered by the Pollution Team, which has limited capacity to directly deliver a small-scale capital project such as the parklet. However, the team is well placed to administer the LIF funds and ensure good project governance, having administered various air quality grant funding schemes with third party organisations in Tower Hamlets.
 - **Insurance and maintenance** – The pocket park will be located on TfL-owned land. The Council does not wish to retain liability for its long-term maintenance and upkeep. Aberfeldy LLP has agreed to this responsibility, but in doing so requires design and delivery oversight of the project, which can be achieved by Poplar HARCA taking the project lead.
- 2.2 **Do nothing** - £200,000 of LIF green infrastructure funding has been allocated for projects in LIF Area 3 following consultation with residents, which must be delivered by April 2023. The Aberfeldy pocket park meets three of the five infrastructure spending priorities for this area, namely: 'public safety measures'; 'measures to tackle pollution'; and 'parks & green spaces'. Not proceeding with the proposed project would represent a missed opportunity to deliver on these spending priorities in partnership with local stakeholders.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Project Context

- 3.1 The Aberfeldy estate is located within a triangular shaped urban island, severed by the River Lea to the east, the A13 to the south and the A12 to the west/north west. The area suffers from high levels of air pollution – levels of nitrogen dioxide have been recorded as 2.5 times higher than annual EU and UK Air Quality Strategy limit values. Despite Tower Hamlets having relatively

low levels of car ownership (the fourth lowest in London), it has one of the highest death rates attributable to poor air quality in both London and the country (6.4 people per 1000). Poor air quality is compounded by limited access to quality, green spaces. It has a high flood risk and heat island effect¹.

- 3.2 The emerging Leaside Area Action Plan highlights major physical change taking place across the Lower Lea Valley. New homes are being built around major arterial routes such as the A12, with regeneration schemes across Poplar Riverside (which includes Lansbury ward) forecast to deliver over 15,000 homes in the coming decades. Aberfeldy has thousands of new homes currently under construction by a variety of different developers.
- 3.3 The Aberfeldy Pocket Park falls within a regeneration area being shaped by Aberfeldy LLP, a joint venture between Poplar HARCA and EcoWorld. 1,100 homes have almost been completed as part of the Aberfeldy Village development. A further 1,600 properties are proposed as part of the Aberfeldy West masterplan, alongside new retail, workspace and community facilities, improved parks and open spaces, and greener pedestrian and cycle connections which help to overcome the physical barriers which cut off Aberfeldy from Poplar, Blackwall and Canning Town (see Appendix 1).
- 3.4 The pocket park project responds to consultation and feedback from young people and residents from Aberfeldy about their hopes and expectations for an improved neighbourhood, particularly in terms of personal safety, quality of green spaces and air quality.² Children and young people, including pupils from Culloden Primary School, were engaged in developing ideas for the Aberfeldy West Masterplan, focussing on walking, cycling and open spaces. The report represents the first of three engagement exercises with young people planned in the next couple of years. The consultation was carried out on behalf of Poplar HARCA and Aberfeldy LLP.

The Aberfeldy Pocket Park

- 3.5 The Aberfeldy pocket park concept has subsequently been developed as a small, but nonetheless significant, tangible intervention and response to the ambitions expressed in the consultation. It also presents an opportunity to involve local people in the co-design, installation and maintenance of the initiative.
- 3.6 The pocket park aims to:

¹ London Climate Risk Map

² Full feedback can be found in the following report: 'Aberfeldy Village - children and youth engagement report' (ZCD Architects, 2020, Report 1).

- Provide a functional and safe public realm which will not only welcome users, encouraging them to activate this space, but also maximising the opportunity for social interactions.
- Enhance the safety of these spaces by encouraging more eyes on the street and passive surveillance.
- Improve the quality of spaces along the A12, creating a clearer, safer and legible entrance to the underpass which is visible on the approach along Dee Street.
- Lessen the impacts of air pollution with trees and planting, which also green these spaces and improve the general aesthetic.
- Improve the public realm surrounding Culloden Primary School, creating clear arrival and drop-off spaces and an improved journey to and from the school.
- Select planting and hard materials for robustness and ease of maintenance as well as long term effect and cost efficiency. Specific plants have been selected in order to mitigate air pollution from the A12 and 'green' the approach to the Balfron Tower/Dee Street underpass.
- Use colourful materials to celebrate the location and identity of the school.
- Consider sustainability and durability when choosing street furniture, using recycled materials where possible, and considering long-term portability and reuse if regeneration comes forward in the area.
- Be a participatory and inclusive project that local people and stakeholders can help design and deliver
- Subject to approval of the final design, the pocket park will consist of raised planters for plants and trees, seating, climbing planters, enhanced lighting and ancillary street furniture such as bins, cycle stands and wayfinding (where appropriate).

3.7 The pocket park proposal put forward by Poplar HARCA is set within the context of the emerging Aberfeldy West masterplan and other neighbouring regeneration schemes in Aberfeldy Ward. The masterplan (led by Aberfeldy LLP, a joint venture between Poplar HARCA and EcoWorld) puts forward a range of meanwhile and permanent commercial, play and open space uses that will come forward over the lifetime of the development, if planning is secured. As part of the masterplan's public engagement process, extensive consultation has been undertaken with residents about their hopes and expectations for improved green and public spaces across Aberfeldy estate. The pocket park, approximately 500sqm in size, would be a small, immediate and creative demonstration of this ambition, offering the opportunity for residents to help co-design and build a project that tackles a problematic gateway into Aberfeldy. The pocket park will also be designed to enable portability and reuse as potential regeneration in the area comes forward. However, the pocket park is not dependent on the Aberfeldy masterplan being

approved. It is designed as a standalone project, with the potential to link into any nearby public realm improvements.

3.8 The management, installation and completion of the pocket park by Poplar HARCA, via a direct grant, is considered the most practical arrangement for delivering the project for the following reasons:

- Poplar HARCA is an active local stakeholder in Aberfeldy as a social landlord and development partner within Aberfeldy LLP. It is well placed to engage key local stakeholders and residents in the development of the scheme's design and delivery
- Poplar HARCA has prepared and funded the concept design work through Aberfeldy LLP and secured £25,000 cash and in-kind match funding to support the project, which includes the LLP taking responsibility for the parklet's upkeep and maintenance
- The land is owned by TfL. Poplar HARCA has carried out initial consultation with TfL and Culloden Primary School and will undertake further engagement with both parties and other local stakeholders as part of the project's development
- Poplar HARCA and the Council had a similar funding arrangement in place for the design and delivery of the A12 noise barrier located outside Bromley-by-Bow underground station, another 'A12 Green Mile' project which required close engagement with TfL

3.9 The Council will retain oversight and ensure good project governance through project working group, implementing a reporting hierarchy that monitors the project budget agreed deliverables and outputs.

3.10 LIF expenditure will in the Council's control. Fund will be released to Poplar HARCA/Aberfeldy LLP in stages following receipt of an invoice following completion of key milestones.

3.11 As referenced earlier in this report, Aberfeldy LLP has confirmed that it will act as guarantor for the long-term upkeep of the pocket park. TfL has confirmed it will need to approve the final detailed design, a Scope of Works by the appointed contractor and a Service Level Agreement (or similar licence arrangement). Planning permission is not required for this project.

3.12 The project also supports the Council's Climate Action Partnership and will be part of the emerging Poplar Low Carbon Neighbourhood initiative being led by Poplar HARCA, with both partners actively engaged and coordinated across these two agendas. The pocket park also supports Tower Hamlets Green Grid Strategy and policy D.OWS3 of Tower Hamlets Local plan, which encourages development of pockets parks.

3.13 The Council has worked in close partnership with Poplar HARCA on a number of live and completed air quality and active travel projects, providing a strong foundation for this project. These include:

- A12 Acoustic Noise Barrier (2017-2021) – An innovative acoustic separation wall designed as an artistic installation by Bromley-by-Bow underground station, installed in 2021 with additional funding secured from TfL. Part of the ‘A12 Green Mile’ strategy, the wall uses an innovative noise absorbent, self-coloured metal ‘fabric’ not previously used in the UK for this purpose.
- DEFRA Air Quality Programme (2018-19) – Poplar HARCA helped the Council to secure £120,000 from central government for a package of air quality projects. This included additional funds for the Council’s ‘Breathe Clean’ advertising campaign, air quality monitoring equipment and sites analysis with University of East London, and awareness raising events such as St Paul’s Way Festival.
- Chrisp Street Delivers electric cargo bike delivery hub (2020-present) – Poplar HARCA supported the Council to secure £350k funding from the GLA’s ‘Business Low Emission Neighbourhood’ programme, and is providing in-kind management support for the trial of an electric cargo bike hub in Chrisp Street Market

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are not considered to be any negative or discriminatory equalities implications relating to the location of the proposed parklet, which is a level-access pedestrian thoroughfare on public land. This pocket park will be a free-to-access public space, offering an improved environmental, public realm and pedestrian experience for anyone walking or dwelling in the area.
- 4.2 This project will also seek to redress inequalities created by the existing space. For example, primary school children and adults with comorbidities that have a higher risk of asthma and respiratory diseases from exposure to air pollution; or individual female or teenage pedestrians with safety concerns and fear of crime about the location.
- 4.3 The engagement and participation opportunities proposed within the project delivery plan should be available and accessible to all. In particular, these activities will need to ensure how particular groups or communities, who might typically be excluded from or face barriers to an engagement process, are able to participate in the project. The project proposes working with local stakeholder organisations to promote such opportunities and maximise interest.

- 4.4 Residents and visitors to the area are likely to benefit from improved air quality and reduced exposure to air pollution due to dispersion and deposition of air pollutants by the green infrastructure³ and incentivise active travel.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications- As Polar HARCA will directly manage the project delivery, there will be limited resource implications for the Council.
- Consultations- Residents were consulted as part of the local infrastructure fund consultation to find out what, residents, think the council should be spending LIF money on in each area.
- Environmental- The Aberfeldy pocket park will contribute towards improving air quality in the area and support the Council's Climate Action Partnership. It will also contribute in delivering action 54 of the current air quality action plan, namely, installing green infrastructure.
- Risk Management - There are risks associated with the delivery of this project, namely around securing the necessary permissions from TfL (see 3.11). Early consultation has already taken place and conditional approval has been given, so the risk is considered to be medium. Regular consultation and engagement with TfL will take place during the design process. A project risk register will be maintained by the Project Steering Group.
- Crime Reduction- The project aims to reduce both the perception of and potential for crime through physical improvements to the public realm, including better lighting. However, initial feedback from TfL has highlighted that the design and installation of new infrastructure, such as planters, must not unduly encourage the opportunity for criminal or anti-social behaviour.
- Safeguarding-No known safeguarding implications
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment- N/A

³ Using Green Infrastructure to Protection People from Air Pollution
https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/green_infrastruture_air_pollution_may_19.pdf

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report seeks to issue a formal offer of grant to Poplar HARCA up to £100,000 of Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) to, to take forward and directly deliver the Aberfeldy Parklet. LIF is a regulatory deduction from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) which is a fund set aside for the provision of local infrastructure facilities.
- 6.2 This project is part of the LIF Living Greening walls project which has a budget of £400,000 of which £200,000 has been allocated to LIF Area 3.
- 6.3 The project estimated to cost £100,000 will be delivered via a grant to Poplar Harca, a social housing provider and development partner within Aberfeldy Limited Liability Partnership (LLP). Aberfeldy LLP is a company set up by Poplar Harca to deliver the project and Poplar Harca through this company contributes £25,000 towards the future maintenance of the project.
- 6.4 The funding of this project and project costs must be contained within the £100,000 grant allocation.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to make the grant described in this report.
- 7.2 The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010 provide that certain proportions of CIL collected by a charging authority may be spent to address “the demands that development places” on a local area. Regulation 59(1), Community Infrastructure Regulations 2010 provides that: “A charging authority must apply CIL to funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area.” This definition allows the levy to be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, parks and green spaces. This flexibility gives the Council the opportunity to choose what infrastructure is needed to deliver its local plan.
- 7.3 Therefore, the provision of this grant is an appropriate use of CIL as it reflects requirements laid out in the CIL Regulations. The Council will constantly monitor the grant to ensure that such provisions are always met, and funding distributed fairly.
- 7.4 The grant monitoring will be supported by appropriate agreement terms. The agreement will ensure that the funding is used in compliance with the objectives and the conditions highlighted in this report. This will assist the Council achieving Best Value in line with the law.

- 7.5 The Council is required when exercising its functions to comply with the duty set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, namely to have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The grant monitoring process will assess any further equalities issues that may arise and ensure that these are dealt with appropriately.
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- **Aberfeldy Parklet PID- LIF working group 3 November 2021**

Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Site Location and Concept Designs

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

NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Muhammad Islam, Pollution Team Leader
Nicoletta Vianello, Principal Air Quality Officer

APPENDIX 1

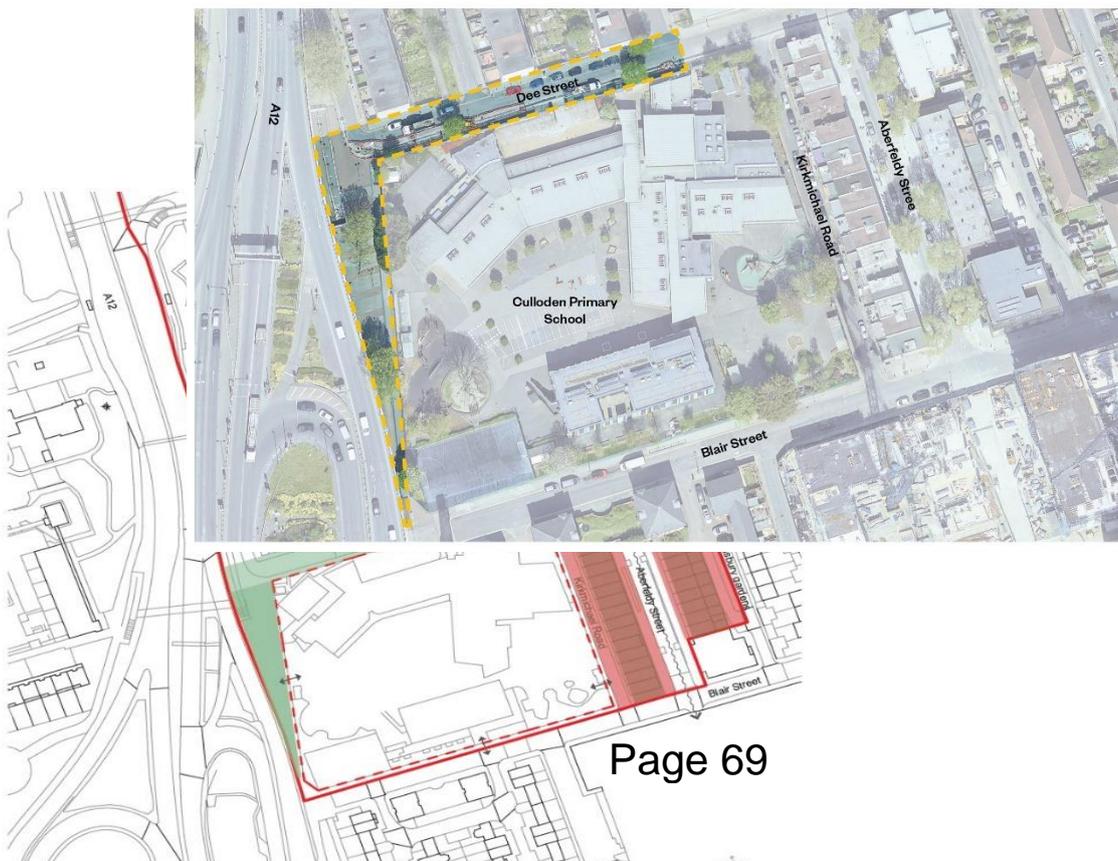
Aberfeldy Parklet - Site Location and Concept Designs

1. Aberfeldy West illustrative masterplan (parklet location circled in red)



2. Aberfeldy Parklet Site Plans

NB: Funding will support the delivery of Phase A. Dee Street is outside of the project's current scope, but could be considered as a future extensions



3. Land Ownership Plan (parklet location outlined in red)



- Phase A Construction zones (Phasing and hoarding plan tbc)
- Phase A Meanwhile Project
- Phase A Ettrick Road Link
- Parklet Phase 1 - A12 edge - Local Infrastructure Fund
- Parklet expansion (Phase 2) - Dee Street

4. Outline plan



-  Opportunity for improving the setting of existing trees along Dee Street and the A12 edge
-  Opportunity for additional planting and greening
-  Potential for climbers and raised planters along the A12 edge
-  Main pedestrian route to and from school



-  **Aberfeldy parklet Project**
-  Proposed planting
-  Proposed seating
-  Proposed tree in planters (A12)
-  Proposed climbers and green screen system
-  Proposed planting and planter
-  Proposed bench
-  Existing tree
-  Path

5. Examples of public realm infrastructure and planting to be considered

Streetlife Rough&Ready Circular Benches are robust and made of recycled materials

Streetlife Giant Flowerpots (height 120cm) are brightly coloured to signal the school

Streetlife Green Screen System, or similar without seating provides vertical green

Streetlife Giant Flowerpots (height 47cm) with potential to be a lower height to act as seating

Betula pendula

Amelanchier lamarckii

Achillea millefolium

Alchemilla mollis

Aster spp.

Geranium maculatum

Salvia nemorosa

Heuchera

Lavandula

Desmanthus delavayi

Sambucus racemosa

Sorbaria sorbifolia

Symphoricarpos albus

Dryopteris filix-mas

Vincetoxicum

Cotoneaster horizontalis

Hedera helix

Clematis montana

Wisteria sinensis

Lonicera periclymenum
Belgica

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