

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 5.45 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2022

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL MULBERRY PLACE

Members Present in Person:

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Chair)	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding)
Councillor Saied Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Safer Communities)

Officers Present in Person:

Chris Burr	(Head of Growth)
Jonathan Fox	(Principal Contracts Lawyer, Legal Services Governance)
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Joel West	(Democratic Services Team Leader (Committee))

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of 6 July 2022 were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were no public submissions.

5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

The minutes of the meeting of 6 July 2022 were approved as a correct record.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 ELBA - Building Legacies 3 Match Funding Grant

DECISION:

1. To approve the grant of £25,000 to ELBA to allow the Council to continue to participate as a delivery partner in the Building Legacies Programme.

Reasons for the decision

The Council's participation in the Building Legacies Programme so far has meant that support has been made available to micro, small and medium sized enterprises in the borough from the delivery of capacity enhancement business support which enables them to grow their business and generate new income streams through supply chain and procurement opportunities from large businesses.

Alternative options

Owing to the established cycle of the Building Legacies programme and the added value of opportunities from other participant local authorities across East London, there is not a ready-made alternative option for the Council to consider.

The annual cost of delivering Building Legacies is £630,000 and the disbenefit of not approving the recommendation to award this grant will not only result in the loss of income and growth for participant businesses in the borough but it will also cost the Council more than £25,000 to deliver a project on the same scale.

6.2 (VCS) Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority

DECISION:

1. To note the update on funding awarded to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting.

Reasons for the decision

There are a number of funding programmes to support VCS organisations in the borough where decisions are made under delegated authority by officers following evaluation of applications by Council officers or the East End Community Foundation on the Council's behalf. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting in line with the Sub-committee's terms of reference.

Alternative options

The Council could decide not to provide funding to VCS organisations through its various programmes. However, to do this would be contrary to the agreed

policy to support VCS activities in the borough set out in the VCS Strategy 2020-2024.

6.3 Local Community Fund (LCF) Performance Report April 2022-June 2022

DECISION:

1. To note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.7 and Appendix 2 to the report for April to June 2022.
2. To note the change of RAG ratings for Age UK East London's Caxton Hall and Friend at Home projects, moves from RED to AMBER and then GREEN, which has permitted the release of project funds due to Age UK for work on these projects, as outlined in section 3.2 (f) of the report.
3. To note the updates on the funded organisations in Council premises and the Infrastructure & Capacity Building funding as set out in 3.8 to 3.9 of the report.
4. That a report is submitted to the next available meeting of the sub-committee providing further details and clarity on the variation of the Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant and including a proposal to change the end date of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building grant to 30th September 2023 to bring it line with other grant programmes.

Reasons for the decision

The Grants Determination Sub Committee Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance report to the Committee.

Regular performance updates ensure that the LCF themes and individual projects are on track to achieve the targeted outcomes. Any issues that arise can be addressed and appropriate remedial actions agreed. Where necessary, this could include the reduction, withdrawal or reallocation of funds to ensure that the overall Programme is making the most effective use of resources and maximising the potential achievement of agreed aims and objectives.

There is a need to agree to the activities that are proposed to be delivered by the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project for the extension period for this project, from October 2022 to March 2024. This should include continued Council support through this project for the activities of Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlet's COVID-19 Volunteering Hub to support volunteering within VCS organisations in the borough, particularly with the persistence of COVID-19 and the possibility of a full-scale resumption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alternative options

Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide Grants Determination Sub-Committee (GDSC) with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements. Page 4

GDSC could request further information or alter the recommendations.

The Infrastructure and Capacity Building project does not provide continued funding for the COVID-19 Volunteering Hub between October 2022 to March 2024 to support volunteering within local VCS organisations. This would result in the removal of Council funding for a centralised volunteering recruitment system for VCS organisations in the borough in the context of the persistence of COVID-19 in the borough and the possibility of a full-scale resumption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

None.

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

Chair,
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee