

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

Wednesday, 9 November 2022 at 5.30 p.m.

Committee Room One - Town Hall Mulberry Place

Agenda

Chair: Mayor Lutfur Rahman

Members

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

Substitutes

Councillor Suluk Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Equalities and Social Inclusion)
Councillor Gulam Kibria Choudhury	(Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Social Care)
Councillor Abu Chowdhury	(Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth)
Councillor Iqbal Hossain	(Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation)
Councillor Kabir Hussain	(Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency)
Councillor Maium Talukdar	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor))

[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

Viewing or Participating in Meetings

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 limited and allocated on a first come first served based.

Meeting Webcast

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system.
<http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Contact for further enquiries:

Justina Bridgeman, Democratic Services Officer (Committees),
Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG
Tel: 020 7364 4877
E-mail: Zoe.Folley@towerhamlets.gov.uk
Web:<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

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The Grants Determination Sub – Committee is a Cabinet Sub – Committee established to consider matters relating to grants.

Upcoming Decisions are published on the website on the 'Forthcoming Decisions' page through www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee

Published Decisions and Call-Ins

Once the meeting decisions have been published, any 5 Councillors may submit a Call-In to the Service Head, Democratic Services requesting that a decision be reviewed. This halts the decision until it has been reconsidered.

- The decisions will be published on: **Friday, 11 November 2022**
- The deadline for call-ins is: **Friday, 18 November 2022**

Any Call-Ins will be considered at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Committee can reject the call-in or they can agree it and refer the decision back, with their recommendations, for final consideration.

Public Engagement

The main focus of the Sub – Committee is as a decision-making body. However there is an opportunity for the public to contribute through making submissions that specifically relate to the reports set out on the agenda.

Members of the public may make written submissions in any form (for example; Petitions, letters, written questions) to the Democratic Services Officer (details on the previous page) by 5 pm the day before the meeting.

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

Wednesday, 9 November 2022

5.30 p.m.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Pages 7 - 8)**

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 9 - 14)**

To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting held on 06 July 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 | ELBA - Building Legacies 3 Match Funding Grant | 15 - 20 |
| 6 .2 | (VCS) Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority | 21 - 34 |



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

To Follow

All Wards

7. **ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Next Meeting of the Committee:

Wednesday, 11 January 2023 at 5.30 p.m. in Committee Room One - Town Hall
Mulberry Place



The best of London in one borough

Tower Hamlets Council
Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
E14 2BG

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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 6.15 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2022

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL MULBERRY PLACE

Members Present:

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

Officers Present:

Catherine Boyd	Interim Head of Arts, Parks and Events
Jonathan Fox	(Principal Contracts Lawyer, Legal Services Governance)
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Jaber Khan	Strategy and (Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Communities Team Strategy, Improvement and Transformation Division)
Anna Zucchelli	(Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place)
Mark Waterman	(Senior VCS Development Officer, Strategy, Improvement & Transformation Service)
Judith St John	(Director, Commissioning and Culture, Children's Services)
Zoe Folley	(Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Chief Executive's Office)

1. TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR THE SUB - COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Kabir Ahmed and was **RESOLVED:**

1. That Mayor Lutfur Rahman be appointed Chair of the Grants Determination Sub - Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sabina Khan , Scrutiny Lead, Resources

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared

4. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Sub – Committee held on 9th March 2022 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

5. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were none.

6. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

There were none.

7. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1 Grants Determination Sub-Committee - Terms of Reference

The Grants Sub – Committee considered the report.

The Mayor requested that for next meeting a report is presented, setting out all identified grants and the relevant levels of delegations.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the Grants Determination Sub – Committee’s Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to this report.
2. To agree the following proposed changes to the Terms of Reference:
 - That the Mayor will Chair the Grants Determination Sub - Committee
 - To amend Point 3 to clarify the delegation of functions arrangements in line with point 1

7.2 Offer of Historic Buildings Grant to the How Memorial Gateway

Anna Zucchelli (Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place) presented the report. The report sought permission to offer a Historic Buildings Grant of up to £17,000 to Bow Church from the programme.

This was for the repair of How Memorial Gateway to match fund a grant of £10,000 from the Heritage of London Trust. The external works met the grants criteria.

The Gateway was on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register. The gateway forms the entrance to St. Leonard's Priory open space. The land had been neglected for many years, but was now being cared for. There were also plans to increase visitor numbers to the site. The grant will enable the repair and future sustainability of the gateway, as well as its removal from the register.

The Committee noted the formal offer was conditional on the receipt of quotes from three contractors. In addition the payment would only be released once the work has been completed and inspected. If approved by the Sub-committee a letter of comfort would be sent to the applicant advising of the Council's intention to issue the grant.

Whilst agreeing with the proposal in principle, it was agreed that a decision on this application be **deferred** pending receipt of the three satisfactory quotes. The application would then be brought back to the Sub – Committee for a decision.

7.3 A Notice in accordance with Section 24 (b) (1) of Part B of the Constitution and COVID-19 Funding to King George's Fields Trust

Catherine Boyd, (Interim Head of Arts, Parks and Events Arts) presented the report. The report asked the Sub – Committee to note a decision taken by the Chief Executive (before the May 2022 election), in compliance with the Constitution.

The particular decision was to fund the Trust and to maintain their solvency due to lost commercial income and increased costs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the decision taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

7.4 Local Community Fund (LCF) Performance Report - October 2021 - March 2022

Afazul Hoque presented the update report, including an overview of the LCF, and the Sub – Committee's decision to extend the programme.

The performance report covers the period October 2021 to March 2022. It reports on the five themes of the LCF and the Infrastructure & Capacity Building funding. The Project Summary (Appendix 2) gives an update by each project.

It was noted that:

- The Voluntary and Community Sector (VSC) organisations had worked hard to support residents during the pandemic – and in many cases they had to adapt their approach to delivering projects and had demonstrated a lot of resilience.
- The LCF has a number of themes. Of the 50 projects, 47 have been classified as green. Three had been classified red. Two of these related to tenancy issues. It was proposed that payment to these organisations be suspended until these issues had been solved. Progress has been made with addressing these issues. A further project been classified as red as the project had been suspended- the St Hilda's East Community Centre's Surjamuki Disabled Youth Project.
- There had been an increase in demand for support from LCF providers with the increase in the costs of living and impact of Covid 19. The projects themselves had encountered a number of challenges. The Council were working with organisations to continue to make sure they deliver good services
- The report also provided an update on the Infrastructure and Capacity Building programme, and the nature of this work to support VSC projects. It also provided details of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) trustee training scheme including the proposed outcomes.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.7 and Appendix 2 for October 2021 – March 2022
2. Note the suspension of LCF project payment to Age UK East London's Caxton Hall and Friend at Home projects due to premises issues as set out in paragraph 3.2 (e) and (f)
2. Note the permanent suspension of St Hilda's East Community Centre's Surjamuki Disabled Youth Project as set out in paragraph 3.2 (e) and (g)
4. 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.
5. Note the programme for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) trustee training and matching with local VCS organisations, that is being delivered via the Infrastructure and Capacity Building programme, as set out in 3.9 (d).

7.5 Report of VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority

Afazul Hoque 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.

RESOLVED:

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

8. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

None

The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

Chair,
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

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Grants Determination Sub Committee 9 th November, 2022	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director - Place	Classification: Unrestricted
ELBA – Building Legacies 3 Match Funding Grant	

Lead Member	Councillor Abu Talha Chowdhury, Cabinet Member Jobs, Skills and Growth
Originating Officer(s)	Ellie Kershaw, Divisional Director Growth and Economic Development Chris Burr, Head of Growth Shahi Mofozil, Senior Manager Business Growth
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	TBC
Exempt information	N/A
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Priority 4 - Boost culture, business, jobs and leisure

Executive Summary

This report has been prepared to seek the approval of a grant of £25,000 for the year 22/23 payable to East London Business Alliance as part of a match funding commitment in order for Tower Hamlets to participate as a project partner in the Building Legacies 3 project. - Building Legacies 3 is a successor project to Building Legacies 1 and 2 aimed at supporting micro, small and medium sized enterprises to develop their capacity to bid for supply chain and procurement opportunities.

The Building Legacies programme is led by a partnership of participant councils led by East London Business Alliance (ELBA) and the accountable body of the programme, Newham College. Under the programme, ELBA allocates the budget and provides for East London Business Place to act as delivery partner. Owing to the availability of additional ERDF funding, the programme has been extended by a further year to run until 31/03/23 following on from Building Legacies 2 finishing on 31/03/22

Recommendations:

The sub committee is recommended to:

1. 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.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 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.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 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.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 "Building Legacies" is a programme under which local SMEs are supported to enhance their capacity to supply to larger organisations, including those in the public sector, through improving their procurement processes and capacity to bid for work. Through delivery of the programme, the supply capacity of SMEs is enhanced, relevant certifications achieved and 1-2-1 support given in winning contracts.

The programme is resourced through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and partly from local authority match funding. The programme was due to end on the 31st March 2022. However, owing to the availability of some additional ERDF funding (details of the match funding are set out in the VfM section), there is a proposal to extend the Building Legacies programme for a further year. The continuation project will be called Building Legacies 3

and will run from April 2022 to March 2023 and the delivery organisation is East London Business Place (ELBP).

The council has been invited to participate in the programme as a strategic partner.

East London Business Place has for many years developed supply chains which benefit Tower Hamlets enterprises and enhances the capacity of local enterprises, enabling Tower Hamlets Enterprises to supply goods and services through procurement processes. The programme follows on from similar ERDF initiatives which ran from July 2012 to March 2015 (under the name of “Fit for Legacy”) and April 2015 to March 2022 (under the name, like the current one, of “Building Legacies 1& 2”).

The Building Legacies programme is led by a partnership of participant councils led by East London Business Alliance (ELBA) and the accountable body of the programme, Newham College. Under the programme, ELBA allocates the budget and provides for ELBP to act as delivery partner.

In December 2021 ELBA contacted participant councils under the Building Legacies 1 and 2 to gain their in-principle support for a further year under the project name Building Legacies 3 in the event that further ERDF funding was available. An indication of support in principle (subject to confirmation of funding) was issued by the council on 7th December 2021.

Tower Hamlets has a place on the Steering Group established to oversee the delivery of the projects and therefore has a partnership role in the implementation of the projects. The outputs from the programme are captured and fed into LBTH Strategic Monitoring performance reports and dashboards. The LBTH Economic Development Partnership will receive regular progress updates from the programme and contribute to steering the delivery of the programme.

The currently delivery model for Building Legacies 3 will be the same as the delivery model for Building Legacies 1 and 2. Enterprises participating in the programme will be supported to develop their skills and their capacity to bid for procurement and supply chain opportunities.

The support will be provided through training delivered via range of: in-person/digital workshops and training seminars and 1:2:1 advice, with each businesses benefiting from a minimum of 12 hours training support in order to enhance the skills provision of each business.

The following table sets out the outputs specified to be achieved in Building Legacies 3 programme and offered to the council as a result of participation in the project:

Out put ref	Output description	Whole project	Tower Hamlets
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		(London wide)	
C1	Businesses supported to develop green/environmental policies (12 hours)	100	20
C29	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new products	25	5
C8	Employment increase in supported enterprises	15	3
C5	Number of new enterprises supported	20	4

Staff time/costs to manage and oversee this project are estimated to be minimal and will be covered through existing Growth Service General Fund staff budget.

Under similar match funding arrangements, Building Legacies 1 and 2 achieved the following outputs:

Outcome	Target	Actual	LBTH Target	LBTH Actual outputs achieved
C1 (12 hour supports)	750	830	123	139
C5 (new enterprises)	98	132	18	31
C8 (jobs created)	112	302.7	18.25	66.2
C29 (new to firm products)	180	258	31	50
*Contracts won (£ - BL2 Only)	£15m	£17.3m	£2.3M	£2.5M

The invitation to participate would, if accepted, mean that match funding provided by the council (£25,000) would be met by an equivalent amount of ERDF funding for the benefit of the borough's SMEs. It would be an effective way of bringing external resources into the borough to support its enterprise base.

The table below sets out the sources out the total match funding in Building Legacies 3 (including the £25,000 that's the subject of this grant approval request:

Match funding source	Amount (£)
GLA ERDF	315,000
Newham College FE	100,000
Canary Wharf Group	90,000
LB Tower Hamlets	25,000
LB Havering	25,000
LB Redbridge	25,000

LB Lewisham	25,000
RB Greenwich	25,000
Total project value	£630,000

Through participating in this project and the approval of the requested funds – Tower Hamlets enterprises would also gain access to wider supply chain opportunities than they would have access, created through the inclusion of other local authority partners.

If this grant request is not approved, the materialisation of the additional ERDF resources for the benefit of enterprises in the borough would not happen.

4 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 This report is seeking approval to grant East London Business Alliance £25,000 for the year 22/23 as part of a match funding commitment in order for Tower Hamlets to participate as a project partner in the Building Legacies 3 project.
- 4.2 Approval was given at the Asset Management & Capital Delivery Board on 18 August 2022 to allocate s106 revenue funding to meet this cost. There will therefore be no impact on the revenue budget provision from grant funding this project.

5 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 5.1 The Council has the legal power to make the arrangements referred to in this report.
- 5.2 This expenditure by the Council of £25,000 creates an opportunity for local SMEs to access support and funding greater than the sum of money in itself. This satisfies the economy, efficiency and effectiveness strands of the Council's Best Value duty.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

None


Appendices

None

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

NONE if none.

Officer contact details for documents:
N/A

<p>Grants Determination Sub Committee</p> <p>9th November 2022</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Sharon Godman, Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority</p>	

Lead Member	Cllr Saied Ahmed, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living
Originating Officer(s)	Afazul Hoque, Head of Corporate Strategy & Communities Mark Waterman, Senior VCS Development Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	N/A
Forward Plan Notice Published	
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

Executive Summary

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.

Guidance Documents

Further details on the procedure for Urgent Decisions can be found in the [Intranet Library](#) and the Guide to Report Writing [guidance note](#).

Specific Issues for Pre-Decision Meetings

(Officers may use the following table to add points of note for internal meetings such as CLT, MAB or DMTs. Content can be deleted at any stage and, in any case, will be before publication for the decision making meeting.)

Recommendations:

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

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

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 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.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 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.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 Small Grants Programme and Older People's Services Fund

- (a) The Small Grants Programme was established to ensure that local people and community groups will continue to be able to get funding to support community initiatives – people getting together to get things done. The programme is intended to make funds available to support grass roots activity in local communities that will help make life better in Tower Hamlets and achieve the changes set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan and the Strategic Plan. By establishing a single grants programme with different themes or activities to be funded, the Council is trying to make sure local groups seeking funds will have a one stop shop to get to the funds best suited to their needs.
- (b) The programme has five themes that constitute the main programme and four that are focused themes as detailed below:

Main themes

1. **Innovation** - to encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap;

2. **Prevention** - to promote grass roots activity to reduce the need for statutory services;
3. **Neighbourhood action** - to promote local neighbourhood initiatives
4. **Community cohesion** - to develop community resilience, promote cultural opportunities and reduce social isolation, and
5. **Partnership working** - making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.

Focussed Themes

6. **Loneliness** - Reducing the impact of loneliness and isolation.
7. **Access and Participation** – to establishing access and participation schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities.
8. **Community Support Services for Older People** – to combat social isolation of older people through the provision of community based support services. This theme is administered separately from the other Small Grants Programme themes as an **Older People’s Services Fund**.
9. **Cohesion Events** – to fund street parties and other events focusing on community cohesion and bringing communities together to address issues of loneliness and isolation – This is one off funded by the Covid Recovery Funding the Council established in 2021.

(c) The Council conducted tender exercises in:

- January-February 2022 for the Management of the Small Grants Programme 2022-2023. This contract was awarded to East End Community Foundation (EECF).
- April 2022 for the Administration of the Older People’s Services Fund. This contract was also awarded to EECF.

(d) EECF conducted a grants application process for Round 3 of Small Grants Programme 2021-2022 in March-April 2022. Funding has been approved for the following projects:

- Small Grants Fund Themes 1 to 5: 16 projects with total grant award of £63,509
- Theme 6 Loneliness: 4 projects with a total grant award of £18,559
- Theme 7 Access and Participation: 3 projects with total value of £15,000
- Theme 9 Cohesion Events: 10 projects with total value of £45,414

(e) Please see **Appendix A – Small Grants Programme Grants Awarded Round 3 2021-2022** for information on individual Small Grants Programme projects approved in Round 3 2021-2022.

(f) EECF has conducted further rounds of applications for Small Grants Programme in 2022-2023:

- Round 1 between May-June 2022. EECF will be notifying organisations in August 2022 of the outcomes of their applications for the above funding round.
- Round 2 between July-August 2022. Organisations applying for funding for this round are scheduled to be notified about their applications by EECF in October 2022.

3.3 Innovation Fund

- (a) The Council is keen to encourage and support innovation in the sector and acknowledged that this would require some funding to enable the sector to pilot new initiatives and approaches to service delivery and support.
- (b) The Innovation Fund supports VCS organisations to "test and learn" new ways of working, new initiatives and new delivery models that if successful could be scaled up and commissioned more formally.
- (c) Decisions on the awarding of the Innovation Fund have been made by the Director of Strategy Improvement and Transformation in consultation with the Cabinet Member, based on recommendations of an advisory panel which consists of the Chief Executive of the East End Community Foundation, the Head of Corporate Strategy and Communities and officers from within that service.
- (d) The Council has an agreement with the crowdfunding portal, Spacehive, to support local VCS organisations to crowdfund for projects. This contract was renewed with Spacehive for May 2022-September 2023 following a council tender that was conducted in March-April 2022. The Innovation Fund budget is £60,000 per annum with a total budget to date of £240,000. Total awards to date are £155,437 with a remaining balance of £84,563.
- (e) VCS organisations that crowdfund through the Our Tower Hamlets page of the Spacehive portal have an opportunity to pitch for up to £10,000 (or a maximum of 50 per cent of an organisation's crowdfunding target) in match funding for their projects.
- (f) Further details can be found on the [Spacehive Tower Hamlets](#) and the [Tower Hamlets Innovation Fund](#) web pages with more information available in the [factsheet](#).
- (g) Since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee there have been no additional awards of funding from the Innovation Fund under delegated authority.

3.4 Emergency Funding

- (a) The Emergency Funding is grant support from the Council to local VCS organisations based in Tower Hamlets who are facing a significant loss of council funding. Organisations can apply for one-off grants up to £10,000. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the need for the funding and the fact that they are facing an unforeseen emergency.
- (b) Since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee there have been no additional awards of funding from the Emergency Fund under delegated authority.

3.5 Community Benefit Rent Reduction

- (a) The Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme was set up by the Council to acknowledge the value of the work carried out by voluntary and community organisations leasing its premises through a reduction in the rent payable. The council charges an appropriate 'market' level rent for its premises and organisations can apply for up to 80% of this as a rent reduction.
- (b) CBRR is only available for short leases of three to five years. To qualify, organisations need to meet a number of criteria relating to governance, management and quality standards. Full details of the scheme are set out on the council's website at the [CBRR page](#).
- (c) Decisions are made by the Director of Strategy Improvement and Transformation in consultation with the Cabinet Member based on recommendations of an advisory panel which consists of the Head of Revenues (Chair), Head of Corporate Strategy and Communities and the Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service.
- (d) CBRR has been approved to 12 VCS organisations and the funding is subject to the completion of their leases and an annual review. There have been no further leases agreed since the last Sub-Committee meeting.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All grants awarded need to demonstrate how they meet the needs of our diverse communities and support the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. Equalities data is collected as part of the monitoring process and this will be reported as part of the annual reporting process.

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 This report notes the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority. The total of grants awarded and agreed rent reductions are contained within approved budgets.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The grants and information noted in this report are in line with approvals previously made and the terms of reference for this sub-committee. There are no other legal implications in this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

Appendix A – Small Grants Programme Grants Awarded Round 3 2021-2022

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

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

Or state N/A

Appendix A – Small Grants Programme Grants Awarded Round 3 2021-2022

Themes 1 to 5					
No	Organisation	Theme	Project Summary	Estimated Number of Beneficiaries	Grant Award (£s)
1	Sisters in Business	Innovation	The delivery of a start-up accelerator course	25	4,000
2	Coffee Afrik CIC	Innovation	The delivery of mental-wellbeing and career support sessions for BAME young people	35	5,000
3	ASRA Club	Prevention	The delivery of bi-weekly intergenerational walks across parks	50	4,491
4	St Peters Community Wellbeing Projects	Prevention	Outreach and befriending support for elderly BAME women	50	5,000
5	St Andrews Community Development Trust	Prevention	The delivery of sporting activities across three estates for children and young people	70	4,600
6	True You Today	Prevention	An arts-based programme supporting survivors of gender-based violence	126	4,950
7	Vallance Community Sports Association	Prevention	The delivery of multi-sport sessions for young people with disabilities	80	5,000

Themes 1 to 5

No	Organisation	Theme	Project Summary	Estimated Number of Beneficiaries	Grant Award (£s)
8	The Blair Academy	Prevention	Hip-Hop sessions for older people and their carers	144	4,270
9	YourStance	Prevention	The delivery of eight life-saving first-aid sessions for young people at risk of experiencing knife crime/violence	50	4,200
10	Platform Cricket	Prevention	To set up a pop-up youth cricket club on the Isle of Dogs	600	4,500
11	Island House Community Centre	Prevention	The delivery of free Yoga and Boxercise classes for local residents	50	5,000
12	Sunny Jar Eco Hub CIC	Neighbourhood Action	A project encouraging local people to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic bags	3,000	4,968
13	The New Black Film Collective	Community Cohesion	The delivery of a monthly film screening and rave for those with a hearing disability	300	5,000
14	St Patrick's Church	Community Cohesion	Acting as an accountable body for a local bingo group	30	530
15	St Patrick's Church	Community Cohesion	The delivery of a pensioners tea party for Midsummer	50	1,000
16	United Arts London	Community Cohesion	The delivery of a 12-week arts-based project for a group of adults with learning disabilities	10	1,000

Themes 1 to 5					
No	Organisation	Theme	Project Summary	Estimated Number of Beneficiaries	Grant Award (£s)
	Totals			4,670	£63,509

Theme 6 - Loneliness					
No	Organisation	Project Summary	Estimated Number of Beneficiaries	Grant Award (£s)	
1	Blossom Project	The delivery of a project working to tackle loneliness amongst older residents	40	4,986	
2	Fast Fashion Therapy	The delivery of clothes-mending workshops for local residents	390	4,870	
3	Toyhouse Libraries	A 12-month project designed to reduce the social isolation of local pregnant women and new parents	120	3,797	
4	Stepney Community Trust	The delivery of the Life Begins with English project for those learning English	60	4,906	
	Totals		610	18,559	

Theme 7 - Access & Participation

No	Organisation	Project Summary	Estimated Number of Beneficiaries	Grant Award (£s)
1	Eastside Centre Limited	Advice sessions and the provision of activities for older BAME residents	40	5,000
2	The Bangladesh Youth Movement	Befriending, advice and guidance sessions for older BAME residents	No estimate provided	5,000
3	Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association	A programme of social activities, befriending services, signposting and advice sessions	56	5,000
Totals			96	15,000

Theme 9 – Cohesion Events

No	Organisation	Project Summary	Grant Award (£s)
1	Eastside Youth Academy	A Black History Month Event with music from the Caribbean and a film screening	500
2	Bubble Club CIC	An inclusive club night organised and for local residents with learning disabilities	1,914
3	Babel Theatre	A programme of arts-based activities and events in celebration of Black History Month	5,000
4	Gossip Projects Limited	The delivery of the WISE Festival	3,000
5	Purple Moon Drama	To support the delivery of the play "Essentially Black," across local schools for Black History Month	5,000
6	Rainbow Film Society	The delivery of the 23rd Rainbow Film Festival	12,500
7	The Power Movement	The delivery of a careers information event for young BAME residents	3,500
8	KAYD Somali Arts and Culture	The delivery of the 14th Somali Week Festival	5,000
9	Udichi Shilpi Gosthi	To support the delivery of the 13th Bengali Book Fair	4,000
10	Grand Union Music Theatre Ltd	The delivery of cross-cultural music events in celebration of Black History Month	5,000
Total			45,414

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