

# Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee



Wednesday, 17 January 2024 at 6.00 p.m.

Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel

## Agenda

### Chair

Mayor Lutfur Rahman (Executive Mayor)

### Members

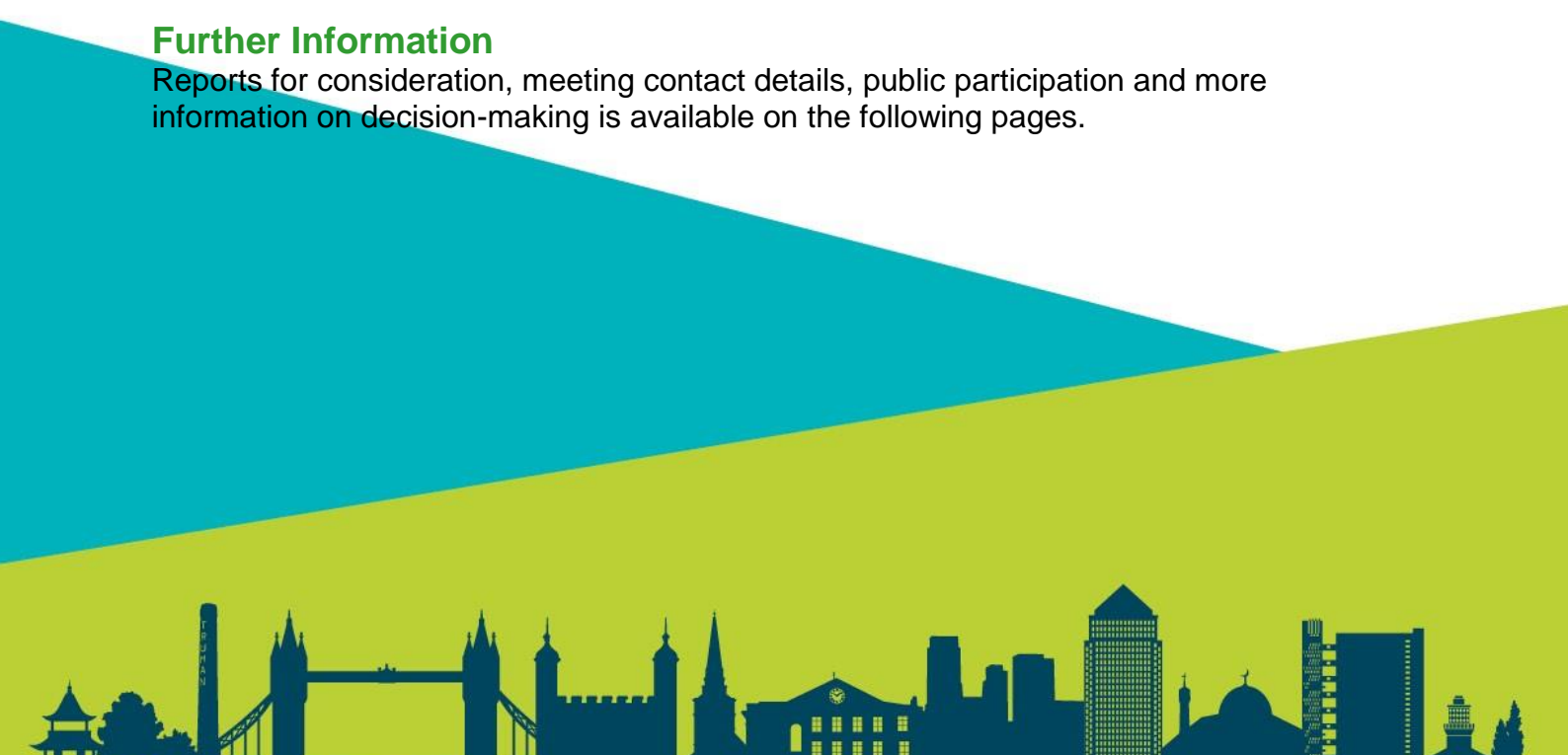
Councillor Kabir Ahmed (Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding)  
Councillor Saied Ahmed (Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)  
Councillor Maium Talukdar (Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education, Youth and Lifelong Learning (Statutory Deputy Mayor))

### 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 Safer Communities)  
Councillor Iqbal Hossain (Cabinet Member for Culture and Recreation)  
Councillor Kabir Hussain (Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency)  
Councillor Abdul Wahid Cabinet Member for Jobs, Skills and Growth

### 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:

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

### Electronic agendas reports and minutes.

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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](http://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, 19 January 2024**
- The deadline for call-ins is: **Friday, 26 January 2024**

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, 17 January 2024

6.00 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. **DRAFT INFORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE**

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 **VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority**

*To follow*



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

**Next Meeting of the Committee:**

Wednesday, 24 April 2024 at 5.30 p.m. in Council Chamber - Town Hall, Whitechapel



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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**

**DRAFT INFORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION  
(CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 18:11 ON WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

**3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

**RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee

1. Approves the minutes of the 25 January 2023 meeting as a correct record.

**4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

There were none.

**5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS**

There were none.

**6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**6.1 MAYOR'S COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME**

**RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the attached report and appendices.

**6.2 EMERGENCY GRANT REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the Emergency Grant Fund prospectus.
2. Authorise the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation, following consultation with the Mayor, to award Emergency Grant to organisations as and when they arise.

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. In March 23 Cabinet agreed to review the current Emergency Grant to ensure that VCS organisations who require emergency support can access the funding and continue to deliver services to Tower Hamlets residents.
2. A review of the Emergency Grant Fund has now been concluded. The review included engagement with internal officers, VCS organisations and looking at good practices from other Boroughs.

A new prospectus has been produced based on the findings from the review and approved by the Chief Executive under delegated authority as per March 2023 Cabinet decision.

3. To make the decision-making process more efficient, we are recommending GDSC to authorise the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation, following consultation with the Mayor, to award Emergency Grant to organisations as and when they arise. This will ensure organisations are able to access the funding quickly and are able to deal with the emergency they are facing in a timely manner. GDSC will be provided with updates on the funding on a regular basis.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. Alternative option is not to delegate the authority to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation to approve Emergency Grant fund applications. This is not recommended as it would delay the process for grants award process which will impact on the emergency facing organisations.

## **6.3 SMALL GRANTS**

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the Small Grants prospectus in appendix 1-5.

2. Delegate decision-making authority to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation on grant awards, following consultation with the Mayor.

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. Cabinet delegated decision-making authority on the Small Grants prospectus to the Chief Executive in March 2023.
2. To ensure the Council can make timely decisions on grant awards to the voluntary and community sector this report is seeking delegated decision making to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. To not approve delegated decision making to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation. This will mean the Small Grants award decisions will need to be made by the Grants Determination Sub-Committee. This would delay decision making and mean that voluntary and community sector organisations may not be able to access funds when they require them to be able to deliver services and activities.

## **7. LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORTS**

### **7.1 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022**

#### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme for October 2021 – September 2022, as set out in 3.3 to 3.8 and Appendices 3 and 4.
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.10.

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. The Grants Determination Sub Committee (GDSC) Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance reporting to the Committee.
2. 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

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. 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.
2. GDSC could request further information.

### **7.2 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER 2022 - DECEMBER 2022**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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 2022 – December 2022
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.9. 3. Note the current Red RAG rating for Real DPO's two LCF projects due to premises issues, as outlined in paragraph 3.2 (b)

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. The Grants Determination Sub Committee Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance report to the Committee.
2. 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.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. 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.
2. GDSC could request further information or alter the recommendations.

### **7.3 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2023 - MARCH 2023**

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.7 and Appendix 2 for January 2023 – March 2023
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.9.
3. Note the current Red RAG rating for Real DPO's two LCF projects due to premises issues, as outlined in paragraph 3.2 (b)

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee (GDSC) Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance report to the Committee.
2. 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.

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide GDSC with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements.
2. GDSC could request further information or alter the recommendations.

## **7.4 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND PROGRAMME REPORT APRIL 2023 - JUNE 2023**

### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.7 and Appendix 2 for April 2023 – June 2023
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.9

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee's (GDSC) Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance report to the Committee.
2. 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

### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

1. Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide GDSC with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements.
2. GDSC could request further information or alter the recommendations.

## **8. VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY REPORTS**

### **8.1 VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (APRIL 2023)**

#### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. There are several 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**

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

### **8.2 VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (JULY 2023)**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. There are several funding programmes to support VCS organisations where decisions are made under delegated authority by officers. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting in line with the Sub Committee's terms of reference.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

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

### **8.3 VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (OCTOBER 2023)**

#### **RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

1. There are several funding programmes to support VCS organisations where decisions are made under delegated authority by officers. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting in line with the Committee's terms of reference.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

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.

### **9. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee appoint Cllr Maium Talukdar as a member of the Sub-Committee and Cllr Abdul Wahid as a substitute.

**9.1 COMMUNITY GARDENS - PHASE 2 UPDATE & TERMINATION OF GRANT DELIVERY CONTRACT**

**RECOMMENDED**

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Notes the report.

The meeting ended at 18:27