

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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

HELD AT 5.41 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

Members Present:

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

Officers Present:

Jonathan Fox	(Principal Contracts Lawyer, Legal Services Governance)
Robert Mee	(VCS Grants Lead)
Thomas French	(Democratic Services Officer (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 were agreed and approved 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 VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority

DECISION:

1. Note the update on funding awarded to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting.
2. Agree the change to the Delegated Authority from Director of SIT to Director of Finance (Section 3.4) for Small Grants and Emergency Fund programmes.

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 2020-202

6.2 Mayor's Community Grant Programme (MCGP) Performance Report – Apr-Jun

DECISION:

1. Note the performance of the Mayor's Community Grants Programme for April – June 2024, as set out in 3.3 and 3.4 and Appendices 3.1 – 3.5.
2. Note the updated arrangements for administering the programme as set out in section 3.2 and Appendix 1
3. Consider and agree option to tackle project under performance as set out in 3.3 (b) and Appendix 5. 1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS 1.1 The Grants Determination Sub Committee (GDSC) Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance reporting to the Committee.
4. Agree to withdraw funding from Limehouse Welfare Association (LWA) for the project, reimburse actual spend incurred on project delivery from July but formally give notice to the organisation to end the project.

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 MCGP 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.
3. Due to the underperforming project, the sub-committee felt funding should be withdrawn from the Limehouse Welfare Association (LWA) project to allow for funding to be allocated elsewhere.

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. This is a constitutional obligation.
2. GDSC could request further information.

7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

There were none.

The meeting ended at 6.12 p.m.

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee