

# MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

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Tuesday, 1 October 2013

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Mayor's Decision Log No. 41

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1. **OUR BASE LIMITED (Pages 1 - 8)**

If you require any further information relating to this meeting, would like to request a large print, Braille or audio version of this document, or would like to discuss access arrangements or any other special requirements, please contact: John S. Williams, Service Head, Democratic Services

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# Agenda Item 1

<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Pro-forma</b>  Decision Log No: 41	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Stephen Halsey – Corporate Director of CLC  <b>Report Authors:</b> Andy Bamber, Service Head of Safer Communities & Dinar Hussain, Head of Youth and Connexions Services	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Our Base Limited</b>	

<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Decision Notice Publication Date:</b>	N/A
<b>General Exception or Urgency Notice published?</b>	<b>Not required</b>
<b>Restrictions:</b>	Unrestricted

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Our Base has applied for MSG funding to provide youth provision from LMU building in LAP 2. The programme will continue to focus on the needs of young people aged 13 to 19 and up to the age of 25 with special educational needs;
- 1.2 The key aim of the programme will be to engage young people in Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), work with socially excluded young people who are involved in ASB, drug and alcohol abuse , prevent alcohol abuse and racist incidents offer training courses that may improve their employability, and ultimately have the confidence to seek out paid employment.
- 1.3 The centre will engage 120 young people of whom 72 young people will be participants and attend more than 5 youth work sessions 43 young people will benefit from recorded outcomes and 21 participants will achieve certified outcomes as described in the Councils Curriculum and Accreditation policy. The project will also organise an annual community event to promote community cohesion, identify young people and refer them to employability course delivered by the Youth Service targeted support team and encourage young people to take part in volunteering. The project has applied for £18,000 for 2013/14 and an additional £18,000 for 2014/15.
- 1.4 This will ensure that provision is expanded to 4 provisions in each LAP and complements existing services

## DECISION SOUGHT

Agree an award of £18,000 a year for two years to Our Base for delivering youth provision as described above in paragraph 1.3 of this report in LAP 2 Spitalfields and Banglatown.as this will provide opportunities for young people to engage in youth work sessions, an annual community event to promote community cohesion and refer them to the employability course delivered by the Council's Youth Service plus encourage young people to take part in volunteering.

### APPROVALS

**1. (If applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy**

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor. The attached report has been approved by the Corporate Grants Programme Board for approval by the Mayor. This paper requests the Mayor to approve the proposals.

Signed .....  ..... Date 30/9/13

**2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed .....  ..... Date 18/9/13

**3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy**


I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed .....  ..... Date 18/9/13

**4. Mayor**

I agree the decision proposed above for the reasons set out in the attached report.

Signed .....  ..... Date 30/9/13

<p><b>Individual Mayoral Decision</b></p> <p><b>Corporate Grants Programme Board</b></p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director (CLC)</p> <p><b>Originating Officers:</b> Dinar Hossain (integrated Youth &amp; Community Services)</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p align="center"><b>Our Base Limited</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Alibor Choudhury</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	<b>Spitalfields and Banglatown</b>
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>A Prosperous Community</b>

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 Our Base has applied for MSG funding to provide youth provision from LMU building in LAP 2. The programme will continue to focus on the needs of young people aged 13 to 19 and up to the age of 25 with special educational needs;
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## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree an award of £18,000 a year for two years to Our Base for delivering youth provision in LAP 2 Spitalfields and Banglatown with a view to providing exciting places to go and fun things to do leading to employability skills.

### **3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 Tower Hamlets is one of the most impoverished areas in the UK. Unemployment has reached 13.2% in the borough, making it the third highest of all the London Boroughs and fifth out of 415 regions and local authorities in the UK.
- 3.2 The borough has the highest level of youth unemployment in London, the highest rate of child and pensioner poverty in the UK, and rates of economic activity rates for women that are 'much lower' than the London average. Illiteracy among children in Tower Hamlets is as high as 1 in 3, and 22% of the borough's children speak English as a second language.
- 3.3 However one of the most pressing issues facing the borough at the moment is economic inactivity – in other words, those who are not seeking employment, claiming employment-related benefits or in any form of education or training. According to the council's own figures, approximately a third of the borough's population seeking work is economically inactive. A further 39,700 are claiming benefits and are thought to be not actively seeking work.
- 3.4 A significant proportion may be prevented from becoming economically active by personal circumstances including lack of confidence, poor numeracy and literacy, speaking English as a second language poor communication skills, cultural differences, and alienation from the employment system. Currently there are 4.9% of 16 to 18 year olds not in education, employment or training.
- 3.5 The key aim of the centre will be to assist the borough's economically inactive residents to engage in work related activity so they feel able to claim the benefits to which they are entitled, take part in training courses that may improve their employability, and ultimately have the confidence to seek out paid employment.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Alternative options would be either to not to fund the project and divert funds elsewhere or to invite applications from a wider group of local organisations to deliver the benefits proposed in the Our Base proposal.

### **5. BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The project is seeking £18,000 for 2013/14 and a further £18,000 for year 2014/15.
- 5.2 The proposed funding from the Council will be from the one off £0.954m Mainstream Grants fund set up at the Cabinet meeting of 20th June 2012. The grant application will therefore be handled in line with the established

Mainstream Grant programme management process. Communities, Localities and Culture (CLC) officers have reviewed the project proposal, gained clarification on various outstanding points, assessed, scored and moderated the application in accordance with these procedures prior to taking it forward for approval.

## **6. BODY OF REPORT**

- 6.1 Our base is will operate from LMU building which is in LAP 2, the centre will initially be aimed at the residents (young people 13 to 19 up to 24 with SEN) of the immediate areas of Spitalfields and Banglatown, but is intended to be a borough-wide project that will be expanded across the whole of Tower Hamlets as it develops.
- 6.2 The centre will primarily be aimed at young people and target the unemployed and economically inactive youth population of Tower Hamlets.
- 6.3 The key aim of the centre will be to assist the borough's economically inactive youth residents to engage in work-related activity so they feel able to claim the benefits to which they are entitled, take part in training courses that may improve their employability and ultimately have the confidence to seek out paid employment.
- 6.4 The centre will provide standard accredited qualifications such as skills for life and AQA courses, as well as employability services like CV writing and interview tips.
- 6.5 These will be supplemented by workshops on debt management, to alleviate the short term effects of poverty in the borough, and to establish the centre as somewhere young residents can trust to help tackle worklessness in a holistic and humane way.

## **7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 7.1 This report seeks Mayoral approval to contribute £36,000 over 2 years of resources to Our Base to support the delivery of youth provision in the LMU building in LAP 2. The grant contribution will be made from the Mainstream Grants Fund of £954,000 that was established by Cabinet in June 2012.
- 7.2 This proposal was supported as part of the 2013-14 budget process and there are sufficient resources available within the 'one-off' £954,000 funding award to support this commitment.

## **8. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 8.1 The Council provides mainstream grants to third sector organisations in Tower Hamlets which offer services that contribute to delivering the Tower Hamlets Community Plan. The grants are targeted at nine themes, which include supporting youth in the borough.



- 8.2 The Tower Hamlets Community Plan sets out the Council's sustainable community strategy for the purposes of section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. It is reasonable for the Council to make small grants in support of its sustainable community strategy. The report provides information about the Our Base project and indicates that it supports the One Tower Hamlets objective in the Community Plan.
- 8.3 The Council has a duty under section 507B of the Education Act 1996 to secure access to sufficient educational leisure-time activities for 13 to 19 year olds in Tower Hamlets (and for 20 to 24 year olds who have learning disabilities). The Council has power under section 70 of the Education and Skills Act 2008 to secure the provision of services for encouraging, enabling or assisting young people to participate in effectively in education or training. The subject grant may be viewed as furthering the discharge by the Council of these functions.
- 8.4 The Council has power under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to specified restrictions and limitations imposed by other statutes. This power may also support the giving of grants to community groups.
- 8.5 Officers must be careful to ensure that the conditions relating to the payment of the grant are complied with.
- 8.6 When considering the grant, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. Information is contained in the report relevant to these considerations.

## **9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 9.1 The contribution of Third Sector organisations to delivering One Tower Hamlets is explicitly recognised in the Council's Third Sector Strategy. Organisations play a key role in delivering services that address inequality, improve cohesion and increase community leadership: the deliveries of these services are real examples of 'One Tower Hamlets' in practice.
- 9.2 The opportunities offered through this allocation will play a key role in delivering the aims of One Tower Hamlets.

## **10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 10.1 The funding priorities outlined in this report support the spirit of SAGE. The Council as a funder of third sector proposals that meet these priorities assists in the implementation of the strategic aims of SAGE along with its community and voluntary sector partners.

## **11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**



11.1 A number of different risks arise from any funding of external organisations.

11.2 The key risks are:

- The funding may not be fully utilised i.e. allocations remain unspent or outcomes are not maximised;
- The funding may be used for purposes that have not been agreed e.g. in the case of fraud;
- The organisations may not be able to secure additional funding necessary to deliver the agreed activities;
- The organisation may not in the event have the capacity to achieve the outputs and outcomes required.

## **12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 The services that will be provided through this programme cover a broad spectrum of activities some of which are key drivers in contributing to the reduction in crime and disorder, in particular, improving community cohesion.

## **13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

13.1 The commissioning framework provides greater transparency and clarity in the delivery of desired outcomes along with cost of providing those outcomes to facilitate more efficient alignment of funding allocations.

13.2 The proposed funding priorities which are clearly linked to delivering outcomes as set out in the Strategic Plan and Community Plan will deliver better outcomes for local people within existing resources, through for example:

- Giving priority to organisations and schemes, that promote social inclusion by reducing social exclusion
- Supporting service providers who deliver cost effective services that benefit the local community and meet the needs of the area.

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