

# MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

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Wednesday, 20 November 2013

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Mayor's Decision Log No. 42 (Response to Call-In)

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1. **COMMUNITY CHEST & COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND - ROUND 3  
(RESPONSE TO CALL-IN) (Pages 1 - 52)**

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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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**PROFORMA:**

**MAYORAL DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN AND REFERENCE BACK**

**Mayoral Decision Log No:** 042

**Title:** Community Chest and Community Events Fund – Round 3

**Is this a Key Decision:**

No

**UNRESTRICTED / RESTRICTED:**

Unrestricted

**DATE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

*05 November 2013*

**DECISION OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

*To refer the above decision back to the Mayor for further consideration.*

**REASONS FOR THE REFERENCE BACK**

*The Call-in requisition in relation to the above decision set out the following reasons for the call-in:-*

- Inadequate level of consultation and assessment with regard to certain applications. It is not clear that these proposals represent best value for money for local taxpayers.
- We note that organisations providing a cross-community service such as the Citizens Advice Bureau was refused a grant on the extraordinary grounds that "it did not meet priorities for this grant".

- A number of grant recipients are organisations which should either be self-sufficient or independent, such as certain so called media organisations. There are also other organisations which have received council funding in the past year.
  - For the second year in a row, the Bangla Mirror receives several thousand pounds towards the gala dinner launch of Bangladeshi "Who's Who"
  - Bangla TV received funding for a Mela
  - Al-Ishara receives another four figure sum for a deaf awareness event, following on from the event last year

### **ALTERNATIVE ACTION RECOMMENDED BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (IF ANY)**

*The Call-in requisition proposed the following alternative action in relation to the Mayor's decision:-*

- Overview and Scrutiny is asked to refer this back to the Mayor with the recommendation that the Mayor does not grant this funding.
- In addition the Mayor should publish all advice and recommendations to the Grants Panel by officers and in all cases where the Grants Panel has made recommendations not in accordance with officers recommendations, there should be a full explanation, with reasons for the variation.

### **ANY OTHER COMMENTS**

*The OSC had before them the Mayoral Decision Pro-forma considered and signed by the Mayor (published 10 October 2013) and the "Call In" Requisition signed by five Councillors (declared valid 18 October 2013).*

*The Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the call-in request which was presented by Councillor Peter Golds.*

Councillor Golds summarised the reasons for "calling in" the Mayoral Decision, outlining the key concerns of the "Call-in" Members, and setting out the action sought from the OSC to address these as follows:

- Concern expressed on the lack of transparency in respect of the Mayor's decision making on this matter: The Mayor had considered the report and made his decision on 9<sup>th</sup> October, the day of a Cabinet meeting, but rather than making the decision in public at the meeting, the decision had been made outside Cabinet, under Executive Powers, and the report/ decision published on 10<sup>th</sup> October. There appeared to be a developing pattern of important decisions being made in secret and published in a way intended to avoid observation.
- Concern expressed that the Mayor's judgement of priorities for funding was misplaced. Grant application CE86 from the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) for a series of information events on welfare reform had been rejected. The application for £5,000 was small in the context of the

approximate total of £8.75 million grant funding to date by the Mayor. The CAB provided an important cross community service for residents of Tower Hamlets, and although the Mayor emphasised his concern on welfare reform his decision indicated he was not sufficiently concerned. This contrasted with grant application CE85 from the Bangla Mirror (BM) for a gala dinner to launch the "Who's who" for the Bangladeshi Community, where grant of £5,000 had been sought and £4,500 granted by the Mayor. The BM appeared so certain of receiving funding, the application appeared to have been copied from the previous year as the application was for a 2012 "Who's who" not 2013. This also appeared to indicate a lack of forensic examination of applications by Officers before signing them off for recommendation to the Corporate Programmes Grant Board (CPGB).

- Concern expressed that there was a geographical imbalance in the allocation of grant funding by the Mayor with approximately £67,000 allocated to Millwall Ward (the most populous) and little given to the Bow Wards, in contrast to approximately £1.8 million for Whitechapel Ward and £1.9 million for Spitalfields and Banglatown Ward; the latter wards combined comprising a very significant tranche of the approximate total of £8.75 million grant funding.
- Concern expressed regarding the Mayor's rationale for funding some grant applications, and consideration that further scrutiny of grant allocations was needed. Media organisations that provided the Mayor's administration with unchallenging interviews and therefore an advertising platform, were funded here. Ofcom had recently censured Bangladeshi TV stations for illegal editorials, and not all residents watched Bangladeshi TV. The East London Mosque (ELM) was receiving more grant funding than any other organisation (approximately £394,000) and although important in the community, was also controversial: featuring in a recent national TV programme by Andrew Neil, and having invited the controversial Mufti Ismail Menk, who expounded offensive views (seen on "You Tube"), to speak there. Consideration therefore that taxpayers money should be allocated to organisations that were representative of and beneficial to all the borough's residents.
- The Mayor was therefore requested to:
  - Reconsider his decision to grant funding to the organisations highlighted in the presentation of the Call In
  - Provide all Officer advice/ recommendations to the CPGB and where the Mayor's decision was taken contrary to/ varied this, the Mayor provide a full rationale.

Councillor Golds subsequently responded to questions from the OSC as follows:

- A geographical imbalance in grant allocations might result from a lack of applications from some areas, or applications that didn't meet the grant criteria, so was it fair to blame the Mayor/ Cabinet for this. *Decisions were solely those of the Mayor and if the Mayor made decisions contrary to Officer advice it was important to be provided with the rationale for this. It was also important to weigh the benefits of grant to the wider community in the context of acknowledged pockets of poverty across the borough.*

- Clarification was sought and given, as the ELM was not listed as an applicant for grant funding in the report. *Several of the organisations granted funding by the Mayor to date were based/ located at the ELM eg Al-Ishara (CE82). It was important to examine the destination of the grant funding as a whole, and for the outcomes to be of benefit to the wider community not just one area, even if the organisation's activities were a worthy cause [Al-Ishara for deaf/ hard hearing in Bangladeshi community] as others may have a different worthy cause they supported.*

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources, responded to the concerns raised by the "Call-in" Members and subsequently responded to questions from the OSC summarised as follows:

- Response to Call In requisition:-
  - Summarised the amount of grant available and objectives/ criteria of the Community Events Grants Scheme:
  - Emphasised that the grant scheme and the purpose for which funding was available had been widely advertised on the Council's website and East End Life.
  - Outlined the robust nature of the Officer assessment process for such grant applications. Given that public money was being granted it was essential for applications to prove value for money and delivery of appropriate outcomes.
  - The CAB grant application (CE86) was for a series of on-going events whereas the grant criteria was for one off events, and consequently the application had not met the criteria for grant funding.
  - The BM grant application (CE85) was for a one off event that benefitted Tower Hamlets residents, with no complaints up to this point. The application had undergone the robust Officer assessment process and proved it could deliver the required outcomes of the grant scheme providing a celebratory event for Bangladeshi achievement relevant to the people of the borough.
  - The Bangla TV grant application (CE98) for a Mela, although having a Bangladeshi community focus was open to all residents, and a celebration of music and culture, and therefore met the criteria for the grant scheme.
  - The targeting of an application from Al-Ishara (CE82) in the Call In was particularly upsetting. Al-Ishara provided a valuable service for deaf/ hard hearing children and the event proposed for funding would benefit the community.
- Response to OSC Questions:-
  - The BM grant application (CE85) was for a regular gala dinner event that took place annually, was a networking event for a small element of the community. Was this not an outrageous use of public money, particularly in the context that funding for the LBTH Staff Awards event had been cut? The Conservative Party had used the 2011 "Who's Who" to publicise a prominent PPC.
  - Referencing para 1.2 of the Officer report appended to Mayoral Decision, clarification was sought as to why the Community Chest Programme was temporarily suspended pending a review. Also

was there a Council policy on whether voluntary sector rather than private sector organisations should receive such grant funding? Officers had indicated funding should only be to VS organisations. *What was important was that appropriate outcomes were delivered to the community from the grant scheme, and whether the organisation delivering outcomes was VS or otherwise did not matter provided the community benefitted. Total funding available for the Community Chest and Community Events fund was £688k over a rolling 2 years: 2012/14. The balance remaining was £92,595 (£11,500 for the Community Chest and £81,095k for the Community Events fund). With a total of 260 applications received it was important to examine the impact of grant funding to date and carefully assess the added value and consider the best way forward. A post within the recently restructured Third Sector Team responsible for data analysis would assist with this. The combining of the residual Community Chest fund (where the maximum grant is £10k) with the Community Events fund (where the maximum grant is £5k), was designed to optimise potential outcomes from the remaining funds. The OSC requested the impact assessment and related criteria be provided in writing.*

- Councillor Choudhury had previously presented the case for grant funding new organisations and the importance of funding them early in their development, was it not therefore inconsistent to reject the grant application of a new Somali organisation as reported here?
- Given that the Morpeth Community Table Tennis Club grant application (CE88) for a 2 day table tennis festival followed by 8 coaching events had been deemed eligible for funding, was this not inconsistent with rejecting the CAB application (CE86) for 10 events because they were not a one off event? Consideration that this was overly harsh for the CAB and an improved perception of fairness needed.
- Consideration that rejecting the CAB grant application, for not being a one off event, was inconsistent with funding the grant application from Bishops Way Community Centre for a homework club (CE83), which by definition was an ongoing activity. *The grant applications CE88 and CE83 were not comparable and granted / rejected according to the criteria, and the CAB had been granted significant funding for its activities under the Mainstream Grant scheme (MSG).*

A discussion then followed which focused on the following points:-

- Consideration that the geographical imbalance in the allocation of grant funding between East/West and North/ South was a matter the Fairness Commission should examine, as no matter where residents lived in the borough they should have equal access to service provision. **The OSC requested 2 maps indicating the location of applicant organisations and those which had been successful.**
- Consideration that the decisions made on the grant applications reported were inconsistent:



- Green Candle Dance Company (CC160) granted funding for computers however the Association Ayoka Project (page 38), an African drum/ dance project, had not received funding for computers as this was "out of scope for funding". Consideration therefore that the basis for awarding funding required further scrutiny.
- If some applications were rejected for not being one off events, why were other applications which were not one offs granted funding.
- Consideration that some of the grant applications recommended by Officers provided a showcase/ platform for the Administration to receive the appreciation of the local Bangladeshi community, and these events were also used for circulating publicity material and electioneering. This was not good use of public money and it was important for Officers to engage in a more robust assessment of grant applications/ schemes as the 2014 Mayoral and Local elections approached.
- Consideration that the reported rationale for the award and rejection of grant applications was insufficiently detailed and it was therefore difficult to judge the consistency of the decision making. However several apparent inconsistencies had already been highlighted. Consideration also that because no Officer advice/ recommendations regarding the grant applications had been published, so there was also a lack of transparency in the decision making process. **The OSC requested that Officer advice/ recommendations to the CPGB in relation to the grant applications be provided for its information and where the Mayoral Decision was contrary to this a full rationale was provided for the decision.**
- Consideration that there had been a lack of transparency on the process for applying for grant under the scheme, and residents seeking funding for estate based projects had relayed their frustration about this to Councillors.
- Commented that the criteria and priorities for this grant scheme had not been published where they were easily found nor circulated. The questions on the application form were very general and provided insufficient detail to form a view on the merits of the applications. The opacity of the Mayors decision making here was of concern given that when the opacity of the MSG process clarified the decisions were of great concern.
- Consideration that there was a lack of transparency in the decision making on the grant applications and it should have been made in public at the Cabinet meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> October. Where possible such decisions should be taken in public and issues such as those being raised in the Call In could be taken into account at the time the decision was made.
- Consideration that the funding of a homework club by a community centre under this grant scheme was probably unnecessary as schools could provide this and probably received funding to do so.
- Consideration that funding for the ELM had been controversial the previous year and it would be helpful for the OSC to be informed which organisations were based there and how much funding they were receiving from the Council.
- Consideration that the Al-Ishara grant application (CE82) had been unfairly targeted by the Call In and it should not be maligned just because



it was based at the ELM. The London Muslim Centre may be controversial but Al-Ishara was independent of ELM management and provided a valuable service to the community.

The Chair summarised that the OSC considered that the decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet should be referred back to the Mayor for further consideration for the reasons detailed above and outlined below:

- Inconsistency in the decision making on the grant applications.
- Lack of clarity and sufficiency in the response of the Cabinet Member for Resources to the Call In and associated OSC questions.
- Lack of transparency in respect of the application process and criteria/priorities for this grant scheme. These had not been published where they were easily found nor circulated.
- Officer advice/ recommendations to the CPGB had not been published, which compounded the lack of transparency in the decision making process. The OSC formally requested this now be provided for its information and also provided with future such reports. Also a rationale to be provided where the Mayor's decision was contrary to/ varied Officer advice/ recommendations to the CPGB.
- Consideration that there was a geographical imbalance in the allocation of this grant funding between East/West and North/ South of the borough and the Mayor should ensure a fair grant allocation across the borough so all residents benefitted not just some areas. The OSC requested 2 maps indicating the location of applicant organisations and those which had been successful.

The Chair also summarised that the OSC had requested a further report for its consideration on the overall impact of the Community Chest and Community Events Grants Programme, including impact assessment and related criteria, monitoring mechanisms.

*Following discussion, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee made the following Decision.*

### **Decision**

1. To refer the decision of the Mayor outside Cabinet back to the Mayor for further consideration for the reasons detailed above.
2. That a further report be presented for future OSC consideration on the overall impact of the Community Chest and Community Events Grants Programme.

### **DECISION OF THE MAYOR**



I have reconsidered my decision Log No. 042 "Community Chest and Community Events Fund – Round 3" in the light of the information provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 05 November 2013 as set out above.


Having taken into account all of the relevant information I have decided to:-

✓ (a) Confirm my decision, of 09 October 2013, published on 10 October 2013, on the matter\*; or

(b) Amend my decision, of 09 October 2013, published on 10 October 2013, on the matter as follows\*:  
.....  
.....

(\* Delete as applicable)

Signed  .....	Date  .....
Mayor Lutfur Rahman	

<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b>  Decision Log No: 42	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director Development and Renewal	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Community Chest &amp; Community Events Fund – Round 3</b>	

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

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Since the launch of above the Community Chest and Community Events funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board meetings held on 11th April and 11 June 2013 respectively have been recommended for consideration by the Mayor. Total awards of £407,805 for Community Chest projects: (round 1, £301,212; and round 2, £106,593). And in respect of Community Events, a total of £134,600 was recommended: (round 1, £68,150; round 2 £66,450. Both of these sets of recommendations were subsequently approved by the Mayor.
- 1.2 It has been agreed that the Community Chest programme be temporarily suspended (pending a review) and that the residual funds be transferred to the Community Events budget.
- 1.3 For the Community Chest Fund, in line with the Mayor's decision to temporarily suspend this programme but with a limited budget of up to £30,000, to deal with 'overspill applications' this report only considers 10 applications with a total proposed award value of £18,500, out of total requested amount of £80,605.
- 1.4 Were the proposed awards to be accepted and recommended by the Board and subsequently approved by the Mayor, a total of £11,500 would be available to transfer to the Community Events fund.
- 1.5 For the Community Events Fund, 20 applications have been received for this third round. These have been considered against the agreed eligibility and assessment criterion and awards with a total value of £34,500 proposed from a total amount requested of £83,872. Were

proposed awards to be approved (and bearing in mind the decision to transfer funds from the Community Chest budget) £81,095 would remain available in this fund.

1.6 The table below provides a financial summary of the current position.

	<b>Community Chest</b>	<b>Community Events</b>
Budget 2012-13	£250,000	£100,000
Budget 2013-14	£338,000	
<b>Total 2012-14</b>	<b>£588,000</b>	<b>£100,000</b>
Approved Awards Round 1 April 2013	£301,212	£68,150
Approved Awards Round 2 June 2013	£106,593	£66,450
<b>Remaining funds available 2013-14</b>	<b>£180,195</b>	<b>-£34,600</b>
Effect of decision re suspension of Community Chest and transfer of funds	£30,000	£150,195
Proposed Awards Round 3	£18,500	£34,500
<b>Balance available for remainder of 2013/14 (if above proposed awards are agreed)</b>	<b>£11,500*</b>	<b>£81,095</b>

\* Residual funds to be added to Community Events budget

1.7 Details of applications received for which awards are recommended are summarised below. Decisions on these applications are now required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to the making grants available to successful organisations, to enable all applicants to be notified of the outcome of their applications, to enable to processing of Grant Agreements and for initial stage payments to be processed for successful projects.

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Agree the proposed awards for Community Chest Funding totalling £18,500 as set out in APPENDIX 1 below
2. Agree the proposed awards for Community Events Funding totalling £34,500 as set out in APPENDIX 2 below
3. Authorise officers to issue Grant Agreements for the Community Chest and Community Events Funds in line with established procedures to and implement the agreed payment and monitoring arrangements.

## NON KEY DECISION

I have considered the above information and advice on the award of the Community Chest and Community Events grants as detailed in the report. I have considered whether or not this is a Key Decision under Article 13 of the Constitution. In making this decision I am of the view that:-

- The applications for the Community Chest are for a maximum award of £10,000 and for the Community events a maximum of £5,000.
- The funding decisions are not of such import to result in substantial public interest.
- The total funding for these awards represents less than 2.5% of the grant awards in the current year.

In light of the above and taking all other considerations in to account, I am content that the decision to make the awards as recommended by the Corporate Grants Board is a non key decision.

I have decided to accept the recommendation of the Corporate Grants Board and I agree that the awards as detailed in the Appendices to the report are made to the stated groups.

In considering those recommendations I have questioned four Community Chest funding applications where the proposed funding awards, as listed in Appendix 1 had negative comments originating from programme officers against them.

Although officers may come to the view that an application is poor and/or that it should not receive funding, there are from time to time cases where, when taking account of wider circumstances, projects are worth supporting in view of the perceived potential community benefits.

I have therefore asked officers to ensure arrangements are in place to put processes in place to support those organisations through increased due diligence, requests for clarification or additional information. Alternatively, issues may be dealt with through the grant negotiation process, whereby conditions are placed on the funding.

My decision is based on the following reasons:-

- The applications have been assessed in accordance with the processes for Corporate Grants and is recommended by the Corporate Grants Board.
- The projects represent benefits to a good cross section of the Tower Hamlets community.

Signed .....

Executive Mayor

Dated 09/10/13 .....

**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.

Signed  Date 1/10/2013

**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 2/10/13

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

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

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

I confirm that this decision:-

- (a) has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan OR
- (b) is urgent and subject to the 'General Exception' or 'Special Urgency' provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed  Date 9/10/13

**4. Mayor**

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

Signed  Date 9/10/13



## APPENDIX 1 - Community Chest Fund

Community Chest - Round 3 September 2013					Rationale	CGPB Recomm endation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Requested Support	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CC151	<b>Mile End Community Project</b> 111 Eric Street, Mile End, London E3 4TL	The organisation requested funds for: - business plan development - quality mark accreditation - fees for website development and branding - fees for accountancy services - core staff costs	£10,000	£7,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some items for which funding is requested are out of scope of CCF</li> <li>• Costs of some other items appear to be too high</li> </ul>	£7,000
CC152	<b>Women's Environmental Network</b>  20 Club row, London E2 7EY	The organisation requested funds for: - strategic plan development - staff and volunteer training - upgrading of IT equipment - contribution to core costs	£8,045	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin costs are outside CCF scope</li> <li>• Some training does not seem relevant for all members of staff and volunteers</li> </ul>	£2,000
CC153	<b>Amra Kojon</b> 8 Fordham Street, London E1 1HS	The organisation requested funds for: - a range equipment and materials - training for MC members, staff & volunteers - business plan development	£5,540	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation does not appear to be viable. Nor is there any information about what work it is currently doing</li> <li>• Organisation is unregistered, has no insurance and seems to be asking for setting up costs which is outside remit for this fund</li> </ul>	£0

CC154	<b>London Advice Centre</b> Unit 306A Business Centre, 7 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1DU	The organisation requested funds for: - IT equipment - insurance - resource materials i.e. books & journals to support the provision of advice service - adviser salary costs	£9,986	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant is asking for setting up costs and core costs that are outside the remit of this fund</li> <li>• Organisation does not have the required Quality mark to provide Advice services</li> <li>• Applicant should be encouraged to work with one of the established Advice agencies to gain experience and local knowledge</li> </ul>	£0
CC155	<b>Ocean Women's Association</b> 164 Mile End Road, London E1 4LJ	The organisation requested funds for: - training and mentoring of MC members and other volunteers - preparing strategic plan - insurance costs	£10,000	£4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Org has plans for a good training programme for hard-to-reach women from migrant communities</li> <li>• Some costs seem excessive and it must, if successful, provide a detailed breakdown</li> <li>• Organisation must also obtain the necessary insurance</li> </ul>	£4,000
CC156	<b>St. Matthias Community Centre</b> 113 Poplar High Street, London E14 OAE	The organisation requested funds for: - bookkeeper and auditor fees - printing costs for anniversary report - quality mark accreditation - computer and printer	£10,000	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the costs are for items outside of CC remit</li> <li>• Funding proposed for PQASSO 1 training, one computer and printer and contribution for Anniversary Report</li> </ul>	£2,000
CC157	<b>Sportslink Concordia Community enterprise,</b> Railway Arch, 420-421 Burdett Road, London E3 4AA	The organisation requested funds for: - office furniture - sports equipment - computer - printer/copier - quality mark accreditation - staff training	£9,755	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are some minor issues about the organisation including its Mem &amp; Arts which needs clarification</li> <li>• Costs also appear to be inflated</li> </ul>	£2,000

CC158	<b>Somali School Governors UK</b> 295 Bethnal Green Road, London E2 6AH	The organisation requested funds for: - office furniture - computers - projector - printer - fees for staff training	£7,500	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some due diligence issues need clarification before any offer of grant can be made</li> <li>• Some items of expenditure are outside CC remit</li> </ul>	£0
CC159	<b>Somali Action on Youth Crime</b> 5 Assembly Passage, London E1 4UT	The organisation requested funds for: - various capacity building related training - publicity - venue hire - quality mark accreditation - refreshments - office overheads - laptop	£7,279	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some items of expenditure are outside CC remit.</li> <li>• There is also an issue about the proposed use of volunteers of persons under 16 years</li> <li>• A number of due diligence issues need clarification before any offer of grant can be made</li> </ul>	£0
CC160	<b>Green Candle Dance Company</b> Oxford House, Derbyshire Road, London E2 6HG	The organisation requested funds for: - digital camera - computers	£2,500	£1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital camera</li> <li>• 2 refurbished windows</li> <li>• 7 computers and refurbished Apple Macbook</li> <li>• Organisation to prioritise use of funds within awarded grant</li> </ul>	£1,500
			<b>£80,605</b>	<b>£18,500</b>		<b>£18,500</b>

## APPENDIX 2 - Community Events Fund

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE-81	<b>African Women Welfare</b>	A 1-day multi-disciplinary workshop including	£5,000	£1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A reasonable initiative which merits some support</li> </ul>	£1,500

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
	Association Ayoka Project 1 Locknagar Street, Poplar E14 OER	African drummers, dancers, speakers from the social work team to promote foster care and adoption			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The following items are however out of scope for this fund: laptop/printer (£600) and typist (£200) and should not be funded.</li> <li>Some of the other event costings appear to be extremely high, particularly artist's fees</li> </ul>	
CE-82	A-Ishara 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor LMC 46-92 Whitechapel Road, E1 1JX	A sporting event for the deaf community in Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs	£5,000	£3,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant clearly describes what the grant will be used for (deaf awareness)</li> <li>Clear explanation provided of how the proposed project represents good value for money</li> <li>Need clearly demonstrated with clear account of the benefits to participants</li> </ul>	£3,500
CE-83	Bishops way Community Centre 73 Bishops Way, E2 9HF	Running of a homework club	£4,110	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£2,000

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
CE-84	<b>Bow Bengali Forum</b> PO Box 61140, E3 9BN	Provision of a one-off community event at the Centre to 'foster better understanding about local issues, to create community harmony and empowering local people in dealing with local issues'	£4,750	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that this project is supported but with a reduced award</li> <li>There appears to be some confusion in the application as to the costs of the project</li> <li>Some of the costs appear inflated and not justified, e.g. £2,000 for artists and entertainment; and £600 for advertisement</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-85	<b>Bangla Mirror</b> Unit 2, 60 Hanbury Street, E1 5JL	Contribution toward gala dinner and décor relating to the launch of the annual 'who's who 2012' – celebrating British Bangladeshi achievement	£5,000	£4,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that the project is funded but with reduced award</li> <li>The proposed project is clearly set out with well-articulated need and a clear account of benefits to participants.</li> </ul>	£4,500
CE-86	<b>Citizen's Advice Bureau</b> 32 Greatorex Street, London E1 5NP	Provision of a series of 10 information events on Welfare Reform	£5,000	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This initiative appears to be an on-going provision of services as opposed to an event</li> <li>The proposed activities do not therefore meet current key criterion or priorities for this fund</li> </ul>	£0
CC-87	<b>East London Land Trust</b> 3 Merchant street E3 4UJ	Provision of a community festival as part of the regeneration of a derelict building	£5,000	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group are planning to refurbish a derelict 1950s purpose built theatre and turn in to a theatre and cinema</li> </ul>	£0

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
					for the summer holidays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed activities do not meet current key criterion or priorities for this fund</li> </ul>	
CE-88	<b>Morpeth Community Table Tennis Club</b> Portman Place, Bethnal Green E2 0PX	Provision of a table tennis festival (for beginners under 12) a 2-day festival followed by 8 evening sessions of structured coaching	£4,900	£1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed initiative is clearly described and represents good VFM.</li> <li>This is an innovative proposal with many benefits to the target community</li> <li>Merits support as part of the Olympics 2012 legacy – in encouraging young people in sport</li> </ul>	£1,000
CE-89	<b>Shadwell Women's Forum</b> St George's Town Hall 236 Cable St E1 0BL	Staging of Multi-Cultural Festival	£4,350	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed project merits some level of support, it is well explained and represents a good use of funds</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-90	<b>Somali School Governors UK</b> 295 Bethnal Green Road E2 6AH	Staging of a 'Somali Culture Day': highlighting Somali arts and culture, the way of life of the Somali people and the impact on local heritage in East London	£4,500	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some costs appear inflated, e.g. £2,000 on food, £1,000 on venue hire and £450 on Somali decoration</li> <li>This group is new to LBTH</li> <li>Companies House records show the organisation was incorporated on 28/06/2012, thus the group's track record is</li> </ul>	£0




Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
					<p>limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further due diligence checks need to be carried out prior to any grant offer to this organisation</li> </ul>	
CE-91	Osmani Trust 58 Underwood Road, E1 5AW	Staging of the annual Summer Souk: Tower Hamlets Community Fair	£5,000	£3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is proposed that the project is supported, but with reduced funding as some of the costs appear inflated, e.g. costs of hiring of stalls at £3,000</li> <li>• This is a well thought through application with a clear description of what the grant will be used for</li> <li>• The proposed project represents good value for money</li> <li>• The group also clearly set out the need for the project and are using a number of local businesses to sponsor the event</li> </ul>	£3,000
CE-92	The Parish of the Isle of Dogs Christ Church Vicarage, Manchester Road E14 3BN	Provision of a cultural exchange for residents of the Isle of Dogs and their visitors from central Berlin – this is an annual exchange programme and this year it is in London from 26-29 Sep	£1,305	£1,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a well explained project with many merits</li> <li>• The proposed project represents good value for many and has many benefits to participants</li> <li>• The group provided a clear outline of the project. With modest costings</li> </ul>	£1,300

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
CE-93	<b>Tower Hamlets Chinese School</b> Raine Foundation School Old Bethnal Green Road E2 9 RG	Provision of a Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival: a programme of activities to increase social participation of Chinese residents within the borough	£1,282	£1,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed project is clearly described with clear account of its benefits to participants</li> <li>The group are requesting just over half of the full project costs, a total of £1,282, with the full project costs being total £2,500</li> </ul>	£1,200
CE-94	<b>Tower Hamlets Student Welfare Association</b> Unite, 106 Greatorex St E1 5NF	An annual study tour involving local and international students	£4,900	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that this initiative: A Study Tour; is not supported</li> <li>This is a poor application which does not clearly set out the intended activities or the expected benefits to participants/the community</li> <li>The costs for the proposed project appear inflated and does not represent good value</li> <li>It is recommended that the group are referred to THCVS for capacity building support</li> </ul>	£0
CE-95	<b>Vision for Globe Town</b> Flat 1 Bevin House E2 ORW	A community event aimed 'bridging the intergenerational gap' – bringing young & old together to share their views	£4,025	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application does not meet the criterion to be eligible for support from this fund</li> <li>The group should be referred to THCVS for</li> </ul>	£0

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
					capacity building support	
CE-96	<b>We are Parable</b> 12 Twist House, 24-34 Oliver Road, E10 5JL	A 4-day sneaker [street shoes] festival to celebrate the rise of sneaker culture	£3,200	£1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a highly innovative proposal with many merits</li> <li>• The group clearly described what the money will be used for</li> <li>• The need for the project, as well as the anticipated benefits to the participants are clearly set out</li> </ul>	£1,500
CE-97	<b>West Ferry Tenants and Residents Association</b> C/O 4 Cahir Street, E14 3DU	The organisation will stage 'community fun day' for residents of the local Estate	£2,000	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed project has many merits</li> <li>• There are clear benefits to residents of the estate</li> <li>• The project costs are reasonable and the group submitted clear breakdown of costs</li> <li>• The group clearly describe the need for the project and its intended benefits</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-98	<b>Bangla TV</b> Unit-4, Marshgate Business Centre, 10-12 Marshgate Lane, E15 2NH	The organisation wishes to stage a Pitha (traditional Bangladesh food) Mela & concert	£5,000	£4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>• However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£4,000

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE-99	<b>Golden Moon Youth Project</b> St George's Town Hall, 236 Cable St E1 0BL	The organisation wishes to stage a multi-cultural festival	£4,800	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>• However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-100	<b>Bangladesh Youth Movement Advice Shop</b> 21-23 Henriques St E1 1NB	The organisation wishes to stage a multi-cultural festival	£4,750	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>• However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£2,000
			<b>£83,872</b>	<b>£34,500</b>		<b>£34,500</b>

Full details of the decision sought, including setting out the reasons for the recommendations and/or all the options put forward; other options considered; background information; the comments of the Chief Finance Officer; the concurrent report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services); implications for One Tower Hamlets; Risk Assessment; Background Documents; and other relevant matters are set out in the attached report.

<b>Individual Mayoral Decision</b> <b>Corporate Grants Programme Board</b> 17 September 2013	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director (Development & Renewal)  Originating Officers Dave Clark (Interim Service Head Resources D&R) Everett Haughton (Funding and Development Manager)	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Community Chest Fund &amp; Community Events Fund – Round 3</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Alibor Choudhury</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	A Prosperous Community/ A Safe and Cohesive Community/A Healthy and Supportive Community

## **1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1** Since the launch of above the Community Chest and Community Events funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board meetings held on 11th April and 11 June 2013 respectively have been recommended for consideration by the Mayor. Total awards of £407,805 for Community Chest projects: (round 1, £301,212; and round 2, £106,593). And in respect of Community Events, a total of £134,600 was recommended: (round 1, £68,150; round 2 £66,450. Both of these sets of recommendations were subsequently approved by the Mayor.
- 1.2** It has been agreed that the Community Chest programme be temporarily suspended (pending a review) and that the residual funds be transferred to the Community Events budget.
- 1.3** For the Community Chest Fund, in line with the Mayor's decision to temporarily suspend this programme but with a limited budget of up to £30,000, to deal with 'overspill applications' this report only considers 10 applications with a total proposed award value of £18,500, out of total requested amount of £80,605.
- 1.4** Were the proposed awards to be accepted and recommended by the Board and subsequently approved by the Mayor, a total of £11,500 would be available to transfer to the Community Events fund.
- 1.5** For the Community Events Fund, 20 applications have been received for this third round. These have been considered against the agreed eligibility and assessment criterion and awards with a total value of £34,500 proposed from

a total amount requested of £83,872. Were proposed awards to be approved (and bearing in mind the decision to transfer funds from the Community Chest budget) £81,095 would remain available in this fund.

1.6 The table below provides a financial summary of the current position.

	<b>Community Chest</b>	<b>Community Events</b>
Budget 2012-13	£250,000	£100,000
Budget 2013-14	£338,000	
<b>Total 2012-14</b>	<b>£588,000</b>	<b>£100,000</b>
Approved Awards Round 1 April 2013	£301,212	£68,150
Approved Awards Round 2 June 2013	£106,593	£66,450
<b>Remaining funds available 2013-14</b>	<b>£180,195</b>	<b>-£34,600</b>
Effect of decision re suspension of Community Chest and transfer of funds	£30,000	£150,195
Proposed Awards Round 3	£18,500	£34,500
<b>Balance available for remainder of 2013/14 (if above proposed awards are agreed)</b>	<b>£11,500*</b>	<b>£81,095</b>

\* Residual funds to be added to Community Events budget

1.7 Details of applications received for which awards are recommended are summarised below in Appendix 1 (community Chest) and Appendix 2 (community Events). Decisions on these applications are now required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to the making grants available to successful organisations, to enable all applicants to be notified of the outcome of their applications, to enable to processing of Grant Agreements and for initial stage payments to be processed for successful applicants.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the proposed awards for Community Chest Funding totalling £18,500 as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Agree the proposed awards for Community Events Funding totalling £34,500 as set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 Authorise officers to issue Grant Agreements for the Community Chest and Community Events Funds in line with established procedures to and implement the agreed payment and monitoring arrangements.



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

- 3.1 The decisions on proposed grant allocations are required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to make available to local community organisations small grants of up to £10,000 through the Community Chest and up to £5,000 through the Community Events Fund.
- 3.2 Once the decisions have been made, organisations that have applied can be notified of the outcome of their applications and that payments can be initiated for applications that have been recommended for funding awards.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to decide not to fund any of the organisations who have applied for grants and to use the funds for other purposes, for example the larger types of project typically associated with Main Stream Grants.
- 4.2 However, because opportunities to bid into the Community Chest Fund and Community Events Fund have been widely advertised, expectations have been raised and to cancel these programmes after a number of organisations have submitted applications in good faith would lead to wide disappointment.

### **5. BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The Community Chest Fund and the Community Events Fund were considered at a meeting of MABSARP on 7th July 2012 at which a report dated 4th July 2012 was also presented setting out the scope of the proposed programme.
- 5.2 The report proposed that a Community Chest programme be run from 2012/13 to 2013/14, designed specifically to support organisations based and working in Tower Hamlets to assist them in developing their capacity in order to become more effective and more sustainable.
- 5.3 This programme is a successor to the previous Community Chest programme from 2010. It was confirmed that the Community Chest pot would total £250k in 2012/13 growing to £338k from 2013/14 onwards. Organisations would be able to apply for small grants up to £10,000.
- 5.4 Unallocated grant from 2012/13 was rolled forward to 2013/14.
- 5.5 The report also explained that a one-off £100,000 budget had been identified for the Community Events Fund. Grants of up to £5,000 would be available and applications could be submitted at any time up March 2013. It is acknowledged that any unallocated grant from 2012/13 will be rolled forwards in 2013/14.

## **6. BODY OF REPORT**

6.1 Since the launch of the two funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board and subsequently the Mayor, has approved funding for a number of projects for which total funding is as follows.

6.1.1 Community Chest - Round 1: £301,212

6.1.2 Community Chest - Round 2: £106,593

6.1.3 Community Events - Round 1: £68,150

6.1.4 Community Events - Round 2: £66,450

6.2 As a result of the above approvals the remaining budget position for the Community Chest is £180,195; and, the Community Events is -£34,600.

6.3 Officers have now assessed round 3 applications for each of the above funds.

### **Community Chest Awards – Round 3**

6.4 At the 11 June meeting of the Corporate Grants Programme Board, it was agreed that the Community Chest Fund would be temporarily suspended, pending a review of the activities and initiatives relevant for this funding stream and that an appropriate note be posted on the Council's Website to inform potential applicants of decision.

6.5 It was further agreed however, that as the decision might adversely impact on applicants who were, in good faith, currently in the process of completing an application, there needs to be a few weeks 'grace period' following the notice appearing on website; to enable any such 'overspill applications' to be considered. And for this purpose, a sum of £30,000 would be set aside from the current budget provision.

6.6 Additionally, part of the decision to suspend the Community Chest fund included transferring the remaining funds within that budget to the Community Events fund.

6.7 A cut-off date of 15 July was agreed for acceptance of 'overspill applications' and 10 such applications were received and taken through the agreed eligibility checks and assessment process. As a result, officers have proposed awards with a total value of £18,500 from a total requested amount of £83,872. Were the proposed awards to be approved, a residual amount of £11,500 would remain. In line with the decision regarding this fund, the monies would be transferred to the Community Events fund.

6.8 Application details including the organisation name, amount requested, the proposed award and the relating rationale of the applications to the Community Chest are set out in Appendix1.

### Community Events – Round 3

- 6.9 For the Community Events Fund, 20 applications have been received for this third round. These have gone through the agreed eligibility and assessment process and awards with a total value of £34,500 proposed from a total requested amount of £83,872.
- 6.10 It should be noted that of the 20 applications received, 3 have failed to meet the basic criteria for consideration at this time as the organisations concerned have already received a grant from this fund which is a general condition of grant as clearly stated on the application form “**Organisations can only apply to this fund once each financial year**”. This criterion was designed in order to ensure a fair spread of funds within the relatively small budget provision. This could however be reviewed in the future if required.
- 6.11 Were the proposed awards to be approved, an available budget of £81,095 would remain available in this fund. A further residual amount of £11,500 could however be available depending upon the award decisions relating to the Community Chest fund: see paragraph 6.7 above for clarification.
- 6.12 Application details including the organisation name, amount requested, the proposed award and the relating rationale of the applications to the Community Events fund are set out in Appendix 2.

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

- 7.1 Funding was set aside as part of the budget process to establish a Community Chest Fund of £250,000 in 2012-13 and £338,000 in 2013-14. In addition, a Community Events Fund was also set up, with total “one-off” funding of £100,000. In the case of both funds, resources were carried forward between 2012-13 and 2013-14 to meet outstanding commitments relating to the grants awarded.
- 7.2 This report is the third to be considered by the Corporate Grants Programme Board to allocate funding from the Community Chest and the Community Events resources. To date the Board has approved the allocation of a total of £407,805 for the Community Chest and £134,600 for Community Events, leaving unallocated balances of £180,195 and -£34,600 respectively.
- 7.3 It was agreed by the Corporate Grants Programme Board on 11 June that the Community Chest programme be temporarily suspended and that the residual funds be transferred to the Community Events budget, apart from £30,000 of uncommitted Community Chest resources which would be set-aside to finance projects that were still in the process of consideration. This had the effect of revising the uncommitted Community Events budget to £115,595 and the Community Chest to £30,000.
- 7.4 The various bids received subsequently have been independently assessed by the Council’s Third Sector Team and the recommended awards, based on officer assessment, are outlined in Appendices 1 and 2. The recommended

bids total £18,500 for the Community Chest and £34,500 for Community Events.

- 7.5 The overall financing summary is shown in the table in paragraph 1.6. As can be seen, this will leave uncommitted resources of £92,595 which, in line with the decision of 11 June, will all be available for allocation to Community Events.
- 7.6 Grant payments will be made in stages to the successful organisations. In part these will be dependent on the achievement of various delivery milestones. It is essential that the targets and grant criteria are met to ensure that the Council's resources are protected.

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)**

- 8.1 The Council offered community chest funding to assist organisations which are based in Tower Hamlets and delivering services in Tower Hamlets to develop capacity and become more effective and sustainable. The Council offers community events funding to assist in the planning and staging of community focused events and initiatives.
- 8.2 The support of community organisations in this way may help to deliver the Tower Hamlets Community Plan, which sets out the Council's sustainable community strategy for the purposes of section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. Section 9 of the report provides information relevant to this consideration, as do the appendices.
- 8.3 It is reasonable for the Council to make small grants in support of its sustainable community strategy. The grants may also be supportable by other of the Council's statutory powers. For example, the Council has power under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 to support the provision of entertainment in the borough. The Council also 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 (which may include supporting community organisations). Grant recommendations should only be included in this report where officers are satisfied they further the Community Plan or are otherwise supported by one of the Council's statutory powers.
- 8.4 It is reasonable for the Council to set guidelines for how it will approach grant decisions and to follow those guidelines. This should promote consistency and transparency.
- 8.5 When determining what support to provide to community organisations, 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.

## **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 the Community Chest and Community Events Funds will therefore 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 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 these funding streams 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.

## **14. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Community Chest Fund (see attached Mayoral decision proforma)

Appendix 2: Community Events Fund (see attached Mayoral decision proforma)



<b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b>  Decision Log No: 42	
<b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director Development and Renewal	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Community Chest &amp; Community Events Fund – Round 3</b>	

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

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Since the launch of above the Community Chest and Community Events funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board meetings held on 11th April and 11 June 2013 respectively have been recommended for consideration by the Mayor. Total awards of £407,805 for Community Chest projects: (round 1, £301,212; and round 2, £106,593). And in respect of Community Events, a total of £134,600 was recommended: (round 1, £68,150; round 2 £66,450. Both of these sets of recommendations were subsequently approved by the Mayor.
- 1.2 It has been agreed that the Community Chest programme be temporarily suspended (pending a review) and that the residual funds be transferred to the Community Events budget.
- 1.3 For the Community Chest Fund, in line with the Mayor’s decision to temporarily suspend this programme but with a limited budget of up to £30,000, to deal with ‘overspill applications’ this report only considers 10 applications with a total proposed award value of £18,500, out of total requested amount of £80,605.
- 1.4 Were the proposed awards to be accepted and recommended by the Board and subsequently approved by the Mayor, a total of £11,500 would be available to transfer to the Community Events fund.
- 1.5 For the Community Events Fund, 20 applications have been received for this third round. These have been considered against the agreed eligibility and assessment criterion and awards with a total value of £34,500 proposed from a total amount requested of £83,872. Were

proposed awards to be approved (and bearing in mind the decision to transfer funds from the Community Chest budget) £81,095 would remain available in this fund.

1.6 The table below provides a financial summary of the current position.

	<b>Community Chest</b>	<b>Community Events</b>
Budget 2012-13	£250,000	£100,000
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<b>Balance available for remainder of 2013/14 (if above proposed awards are agreed)</b>	<b>£11,500*</b>	<b>£81,095</b>

\* Residual funds to be added to Community Events budget

1.7 Details of applications received for which awards are recommended are summarised below. Decisions on these applications are now required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to the making grants available to successful organisations, to enable all applicants to be notified of the outcome of their applications, to enable to processing of Grant Agreements and for initial stage payments to be processed for successful projects.

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Agree the proposed awards for Community Chest Funding totalling £18,500 as set out in APPENDIX 1 below
2. Agree the proposed awards for Community Events Funding totalling £34,500 as set out in APPENDIX 2 below
3. Authorise officers to issue Grant Agreements for the Community Chest and Community Events Funds in line with established procedures to and implement the agreed payment and monitoring arrangements.

## APPENDIX 1 - Community Chest Fund

<b>Community Chest - Round 3 September 2013</b>					<b>Rationale</b>	<b>CGPB Recomm endation £</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Organisation Details</b>	<b>Outline of Requested Support</b>	<b>Grant Request £</b>	<b>Proposal £</b>		
CC151	<b>Mile End Community Project</b> 111 Eric Street, Mile End, London E3 4TL	The organisation requested funds for: - business plan development - quality mark accreditation - fees for website development and branding - fees for accountancy services - core staff costs	£10,000	£7,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some items for which funding is requested are out of scope of CCF</li> <li>• Costs of some other items appear to be too high</li> </ul>	£7,000
CC152	<b>Women's Environmental Network</b>  20 Club row, London E2 7EY	The organisation requested funds for: - strategic plan development - staff and volunteer training - upgrading of IT equipment - contribution to core costs	£8,045	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Admin costs are outside CCF scope</li> <li>• Some training does not seem relevant for all members of staff and volunteers</li> </ul>	£2,000
CC153	<b>Amra Kojon</b> 8 Fordham Street, London E1 1HS	The organisation requested funds for: - a range equipment and materials - training for MC members, staff & volunteers - business plan development	£5,540	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation does not appear to be viable. Nor is there any information about what work it is currently doing</li> <li>• Organisation is unregistered, has no insurance and seems to be asking for setting up costs which is outside remit for this fund</li> </ul>	£0

CC154	<b>London Advice Centre</b> Unit 306A Business Centre, 7 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1DU	The organisation requested funds for: - IT equipment - insurance - resource materials i.e. books & journals to support the provision of advice service - adviser salary costs	£9,986	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant is asking for setting up costs and core costs that are outside the remit of this fund</li> <li>• Organisation does not have the required Quality mark to provide Advice services</li> <li>• Applicant should be encouraged to work with one of the established Advice agencies to gain experience and local knowledge</li> </ul>	£0
CC155	<b>Ocean Women's Association</b> 164 Mile End Road, London E1 4LJ	The organisation requested funds for: - training and mentoring of MC members and other volunteers - preparing strategic plan - insurance costs	£10,000	£4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Org has plans for a good training programme for hard-to-reach women from migrant communities</li> <li>• Some costs seem excessive and it must, if successful, provide a detailed breakdown</li> <li>• Organisation must also obtain the necessary insurance</li> </ul>	£4,000
CC156	<b>St. Matthias Community Centre</b> 113 Poplar High Street, London E14 0AE	The organisation requested funds for: - bookkeeper and auditor fees - printing costs for anniversary report - quality mark accreditation - computer and printer	£10,000	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the costs are for items outside of CC remit</li> <li>• Funding proposed for PQASSO 1 training, one computer and printer and contribution for Anniversary Report</li> </ul>	£2,000
CC157	<b>Sportslink</b> Concordia Community enterprise, Railway Arch, 420-421 Burdett Road, London E3 4AA	The organisation requested funds for: - office furniture - sports equipment - computer - printer/copier - quality mark accreditation - staff training	£9,755	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are some minor issues about the organisation including its Mem &amp; Arts which needs clarification</li> <li>• Costs also appear to be inflated</li> </ul>	£2,000

CC158	<b>Somali School Governors UK</b> 295 Bethnal Green Road, London E2 6AH	The organisation requested funds for: - office furniture - computers - projector - printer - fees for staff training	£7,500	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some due diligence issues need clarification before any offer of grant can be made</li> <li>Some items of expenditure are outside CC remit</li> </ul>	£0
CC159	<b>Somali Action on Youth Crime</b> 5 Assembly Passage, London E1 4UT	The organisation requested funds for: - various capacity building related training - publicity - venue hire - quality mark accreditation - refreshments - office overheads - laptop	£7,279	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some items of expenditure are outside CC remit.</li> <li>There is also an issue about the proposed use of volunteers of persons under 16 years</li> <li>A number of due diligence issues need clarification before any offer of grant can be made</li> </ul>	£0
CC160	<b>Green Candle Dance Company</b> Oxford House, Derbyshire Road, London E2 6HG	The organisation requested funds for: - digital camera - computers	£2,500	£1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital camera</li> <li>2 refurbished windows</li> <li>7 computers and refurbished Apple Macbook</li> <li>Organisation to prioritise use of funds within awarded grant</li> </ul>	£1,500
			<b>£80,605</b>	<b>£18,500</b>		<b>£18,500</b>

## **APPENDIX 2 - Community Events Fund**

<b>Community Events - Round 3 September 2013</b>						
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Organisation Details</b>	<b>Outline of Proposed Event</b>	<b>Grant Request £</b>	<b>Proposal £</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>CGPB Recommendation £</b>
CE-81	<b>African Women Welfare Association</b>	A 1-day multi-disciplinary workshop including African drummers,	£5,000	£1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reasonable initiative which merits some support</li> <li>The following items</li> </ul>	£1,500

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
	<b>Ayoka Project</b> 1 Locknagar Street, Poplar E14 OER	dancers, speakers from the social work team to promote foster care and adoption			are however out of scope for this fund: laptop/printer (£600) and typist (£200) and should not be funded. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some of the other event costings appear to be extremely high, particularly artist's fees</li> </ul>	
CE-82	<b>A-Ishara</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor L MC 46-92 Whitechapel Road, E1 1JX	A sporting event for the deaf community in Tower Hamlets and neighbouring boroughs	£5,000	£3,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The applicant clearly describes what the grant will be used for (deaf awareness)</li> <li>Clear explanation provided of how the proposed project represents good value for money</li> <li>Need clearly demonstrated with clear account of the benefits to participants</li> </ul>	£3,500
CE-83	<b>Bishops way Community Centre</b> 73 Bishops Way, E2 9HF	Running of a homework club	£4,110	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£2,000



Community Events - Round 3 September 2013					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE-84	<b>Bow Bengali Forum</b> PO Box 61140, E3 9BN	Provision of a one-off community event at the Centre to 'foster better understanding about local issues, to create community harmony and empowering local people in dealing with local issues'	£4,750	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that this project is supported but with a reduced award</li> <li>There appears to be some confusion in the application as to the costs of the project</li> <li>Some of the costs appear inflated and not justified, e.g. £2,000 for artists and entertainment; and £600 for advertisement</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-85	<b>Bangla Mirror</b> Unit 2, 60 Hanbury Street, E1 5JL	Contribution toward gala dinner and décor relating to the launch of the annual 'who's who 2012' – celebrating British Bangladeshi achievement	£5,000	£4,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that the project is funded but with reduced award</li> <li>The proposed project is clearly set out with well-articulated need and a clear account of benefits to participants.</li> </ul>	£4,500
CE-86	<b>Citizen's Advice Bureau</b> 32 Greatorex Street, London E1 5NP	Provision of a series of 10 information events on Welfare Reform	£5,000	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This initiative appears to be an on-going provision of services as opposed to an event</li> <li>The proposed activities do not therefore meet current key criterion or priorities for this fund</li> </ul>	£0
CC-87	<b>East London Land Trust</b> 3 Merchant street E3 4UJ	Provision of a community festival as part of the regeneration of a derelict building	£5,000	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The group are planning to refurbish a derelict 1950s purpose built theatre and turn in to a theatre and cinema</li> </ul>	£0

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
					for the summer holidays <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed activities do not meet current key criterion or priorities for this fund</li> </ul>	
CE-88	<b>Morpeth Community Table Tennis Club</b> Portman Place, Bethnal Green E2 0PX	Provision of a table tennis festival (for beginners under 12) a 2-day festival followed by 8 evening sessions of structured coaching	£4,900	£1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed initiative is clearly described and represents good VFM.</li> <li>This is an innovative proposal with many benefits to the target community</li> <li>Merits support as part of the Olympics 2012 legacy – in encouraging young people in sport</li> </ul>	£1,000
CE-89	<b>Shadwell Women's Forum</b> St George's Town Hall 236 Cable St E1 OBL	Staging of Multi-Cultural Festival	£4,350	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed project merits some level of support, it is well explained and represents a good use of funds</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-90	<b>Somali School Governors UK</b> 295 Bethnal Green Road E2 6AH	Staging of a 'Somali Culture Day': highlighting Somali arts and culture, the way of life of the Somali people and the impact on local heritage in East London	£4,500	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some costs appear inflated, e.g. £2,000 on food, £1,000 on venue hire and £450 on Somali decoration</li> <li>This group is new to LBTH</li> <li>Companies House records show the organisation was incorporated on 28/06/2012, thus the group's track record is</li> </ul>	£0

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
					<p>limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further due diligence checks need to be carried out prior to any grant offer to this organisation</li> </ul>	
CE-91	<b>Osmani Trust</b> 58 Underwood Road, E1 5AW	Staging of the annual Summer Souk: Tower Hamlets Community Fair	£5,000	£3,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is proposed that the project is supported, but with reduced funding as some of the costs appear inflated, e.g. costs of hiring of stalls at £3,000</li> <li>• This is a well thought through application with a clear description of what the grant will be used for</li> <li>• The proposed project represents good value for money</li> <li>• The group also clearly set out the need for the project and are using a number of local businesses to sponsor the event</li> </ul>	£3,000
CE-92	<b>The Parish of the Isle of Dogs</b> Christ Church Vicarage, Manchester Road E14 3BN	Provision of a cultural exchange for residents of the Isle of Dogs and their visitors from central Berlin – this is an annual exchange programme and this year it is in London from 26-29 Sep	£1,305	£1,300	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a well explained project with many merits</li> <li>• The proposed project represents good value for many and has many benefits to participants</li> <li>• The group provided a clear outline of the project. With modest costings</li> </ul>	£1,300

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
CE-93	<b>Tower Hamlets Chinese School</b> Raine Foundation School Old Bethnal Green Road E2 9 RG	Provision of a Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival: a programme of activities to increase social participation of Chinese residents within the borough	£1,282	£1,200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The proposed project is clearly described with clear account of its benefits to participants</li> <li>The group are requesting just over half of the full project costs, a total of £1,282, with the full project costs being total £2,500</li> </ul>	£1,200
CE-94	<b>Tower Hamlets Student Welfare Association</b> Unite, 106 Greatorex St E1 5NF	An annual study tour involving local and international students	£4,900	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is proposed that this initiative: A Study Tour; is not supported</li> <li>This is a poor application which does not clearly set out the intended activities or the expected benefits to participants/the community</li> <li>The costs for the proposed project appear inflated and does not represent good value</li> <li>It is recommended that the group are referred to THCVS for capacity building support</li> </ul>	£0
CE-95	<b>Vision for Globe Town</b> Flat 1 Bevin House E2 ORW	A community event aimed 'bridging the intergenerational gap' – bringing young & old together to share their views	£4,025	£0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The application does not meet the criterion to be eligible for support from this fund</li> <li>The group should be referred to THCVS for</li> </ul>	£0

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013						
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £	Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
					capacity building support	
CE-96	<b>We are Parable</b> 12 Twist House, 24-34 Oliver Road, E10 5JL	A 4-day sneaker [street shoes] festival to celebrate the rise of sneaker culture	£3,200	£1,500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a highly innovative proposal with many merits</li> <li>• The group clearly described what the money will be used for</li> <li>• The need for the project, as well as the anticipated benefits to the participants are clearly set out</li> </ul>	£1,500
CE-97	<b>West Ferry Tenants and Residents Association</b> C/O 4 Cahir Street, E14 3DU	The organisation will stage 'community fun day' for residents of the local Estate	£2,000	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed project has many merits</li> <li>• There are clear benefits to residents of the estate</li> <li>• The project costs are reasonable and the group submitted clear breakdown of costs</li> <li>• The group clearly describe the need for the project and its intended benefits</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-98	<b>Bangla TV</b> Unit-4, Marshgate Business Centre, 10-12 Marshgate Lane, E15 2NH	The organisation wishes to stage a Pitha (traditional Bangladesh food) Mela & concert	£5,000	£4,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>• However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£4,000

Community Events - Round 3 September 2013					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE-99	<b>Golden Moon Youth Project</b> St George's Town Hall, 236 Cable St E1 0BL	The organisation wishes to stage a multi-cultural festival	£4,800	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>• However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£2,000
CE-100	<b>Bangladesh Youth Movement</b> Advice Shop 21-23 Henriques St E1 1NB	The organisation wishes to stage a multi-cultural festival	£4,750	£2,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal meets a number of key Council priorities</li> <li>• However, the precise use of the proposed award will be the subject of negotiation to ensure the grant is used only for purposes which meet the criteria for this fund</li> </ul>	£2,000
			<b>£83,872</b>	<b>£34,500</b>		<b>£34,500</b>

Full details of the decision sought, including setting out the reasons for the recommendations and/or all the options put forward; other options considered; background information; the comments of the Chief Finance Officer; the concurrent report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal Services); implications for One Tower Hamlets; Risk Assessment; Background Documents; **and other relevant matters are set out in the attached report.**



## NON KEY DECISION

I have considered the above information and advice on the award of the Community Chest and Community Events grants as detailed in the report. I have considered whether or not this is a Key Decision under Article 13 of the Constitution. In making this decision I am of the view that:-

- The applications for the Community Chest are for a maximum award of £10,000 and for the Community events a maximum of £5,000.
- The funding decisions are not of such import to result in substantial public interest.
- The total funding for these awards represents less than 2.5% of the grant awards in the current year.

In light of the above and taking all other considerations in to account, I am content that the decision to make the awards as recommended by the Corporate Grants Board is a non key decision.

I have decided to accept the recommendation of the Corporate Grants Board and I agree that the awards as detailed in the Appendices to the report are made to the stated groups.

In considering those recommendations I have questioned four Community Chest funding applications where the proposed funding awards, as listed in Appendix 1 had negative comments originating from programme officers against them.

Although officers may come to the view that an application is poor and/or that it should not receive funding, there are from time to time cases where, when taking account of wider circumstances, projects are worth supporting in view of the perceived potential community benefits.

I have therefore asked officers to ensure arrangements are in place to put processes in place to support those organisations through increased due diligence, requests for clarification or additional information. Alternatively, issues may be dealt with through the grant negotiation process, whereby conditions are placed on the funding.

My decision is based on the following reasons:-

- The applications have been assessed in accordance with the processes for Corporate Grants and is recommended by the Corporate Grants Board.
- The projects represent benefits to a good cross section of the Tower Hamlets community.

Signed .....

Executive Mayor

Dated .....

**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.

Signed ..... Date .....

**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 .....

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

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

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

I confirm that this decision:-

- (a) has been published in advance on the Council’s Forward Plan OR
- (b) is urgent and subject to the ‘General Exception’ or ‘Special Urgency’ provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.


Signed ..... Date .....

**4. Mayor**

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

Signed ..... Date .....

**Report to the Corporate Grants Programme Board  
17 September 2013**

<p><b>Individual Mayoral Decision</b></p> <p><b>Corporate Grants Programme Board</b></p> <p>17 September 2013</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director (Development &amp; Renewal)</p> <p>Originating Officers            Dave Clark (Interim Service Head Resources D&amp;R)            Everett Haughton (Funding and Development Manager)</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Community Chest Fund &amp; Community Events Fund – Round 3</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Alibor Choudhury</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Community Theme</b>	<b>Plan</b> A Prosperous Community/ A Safe and Cohesive Community/A Healthy and Supportive Community

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.6 Since the launch of above the Community Chest and Community Events funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board meetings held on 11th April and 11 June 2013 respectively have been recommended for consideration by the Mayor. Total awards of £407,805 for Community Chest projects: (round 1, £301,212; and round 2, £106,593). And in respect of Community Events, a total of £134,600 was recommended: (round 1, £68,150; round 2 £66,450. Both of these sets of recommendations were subsequently approved by the Mayor.
- 1.7 It has been agreed that the Community Chest programme be temporarily suspended (pending a review) and that the residual funds be transferred to the Community Events budget.
- 1.8 For the Community Chest Fund, in line with the Mayor's decision to temporarily suspend this programme but with a limited budget of up to £30,000, to deal with 'overspill applications' this report only considers 10 applications with a total proposed award value of £18,500, out of total requested amount of £80,605.

1.9 Were the proposed awards to be accepted and recommended by the Board and subsequently approved by the Mayor, a total of £11,500 would be available to transfer to the Community Events fund.

1.10 For the Community Events Fund, 20 applications have been received for this third round. These have been considered against the agreed eligibility and assessment criterion and awards with a total value of £34,500 proposed from a total amount requested of £83,872. Were proposed awards to be approved (and bearing in mind the decision to transfer funds from the Community Chest budget) £116,845 would remain available in this fund.

1.6 The table below provides a financial summary of the current position.

	<b>Community Chest</b>	<b>Community Events</b>
Budget 2012-13	£250,000	£100,000
Budget 2013-14	£338,000	
<b>Total 2012-14</b>	<b>£588,000</b>	<b>£100,000</b>
Approved Awards Round 1 April 2013	£301,212	£68,150
Approved Awards Round 2 June 2013	£106,593	£66,450
<b>Remaining funds available 2013-14</b>	<b>£180,195</b>	<b>-£34,600</b>
Effect of decision re suspension of Community Chest and transfer of funds	£30,000	£150,195
Proposed Awards Round 3	£18,500	£34,500
<b>Balance available for remainder of 2013/14 (if above proposed awards are agreed)</b>	<b>£11,500*</b>	<b>£81,095</b>

\* Residual funds to be added to Community Events budget

1.7 Details of applications received for which awards are recommended are summarised below in Appendix 1 (community Chest) and Appendix 2 (community Events). Decisions on these applications are now required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to the making grants available to successful organisations, to enable all applicants to be notified of the outcome of their applications, to enable to processing of Grant Agreements and for initial stage payments to be processed for successful projects.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the proposed awards for Community Chest Funding totalling £18,500 as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Agree the proposed awards for Community Events Funding totalling £34,500 as set out in Appendix 2.
- 2.3 Authorise officers to issue Grant Agreements for the Community Chest and Community Events Funds in line with established procedures to and implement the agreed payment and monitoring arrangements.

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

- 3.1 The decisions on proposed grant allocations are required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to make available to local community organisations small grants of up to £10,000 through the Community Chest and up to £5,000 through the Community Events Fund.
- 3.2 Once the decisions have been made, organisations that have applied can be notified of the outcome of their applications and that payments can be initiated for applications that have been recommended for funding awards.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to decide not to fund any of the organisations who have applied for grants and to use the funds for other purposes, for example the larger types of project typically associated with Main Stream Grants.
- 4.2 However, because opportunities to bid into the Community Chest Fund and Community Events Fund have been widely advertised, expectations have been raised and to cancel these programmes after a number of organisations have submitted applications in good faith would lead to wide disappointment.

### **5. BACKGROUND**

- 5.1 The Community Chest Fund and the Community Events Fund were considered at a meeting of MABSARP on 7th July 2012 at which a report dated 4th July 2012 was also presented setting out the scope of the proposed programme.
- 5.2 The report proposed that a Community Chest programme be run from 2012/13 to 2013/14, designed specifically to support organisations

based and working in Tower Hamlets to assist them in developing their capacity in order to become more effective and more sustainable.

- 5.3 This programme is a successor to the previous Community Chest programme from 2010. It was confirmed that the Community Chest pot would total £250k in 2012/13 growing to £338k from 2013/14 onwards. Organisations would be able to apply for small grants up to £10,000.
- 5.4 Unallocated grant from 2012/13 was rolled forward to 2013/14.
- 5.5 The report also explained that a one-off £100,000 budget had been identified for the Community Events Fund. Grants of up to £5,000 would be available and applications could be submitted at any time up March 2013. It is acknowledged that any unallocated grant from 2012/13 will be rolled forwards in 2013/14.

## **6. BODY OF REPORT**

- 6.1 Since the launch of the two funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board and subsequently the Mayor, has approved funding for a number of projects for which total funding is as follows.

- 6.1.1 Community Chest - Round 1: £301,212
- 6.1.2 Community Chest - Round 2: £106,593
- 6.1.3 Community Events - Round 1: £68,150
- 6.1.4 Community Events - Round 2: £66,450

- 6.2 As a result of the above approvals the remaining budget position for the Community Chest is £180,195; and, the Community Events is - £34,600.
- 6.3 Officers have now assessed round 3 applications for each of the above funds.

### **Community Chest Awards – Round 3**

- 6.4 At the 11 June meeting of the Corporate Grants Programme Board, it was agreed that the Community Chest Fund would be temporarily suspended, pending a review of the activities and initiatives relevant for this funding stream and that an appropriate note be posted on the Council's Website to inform potential applicants of decision.
- 6.5 It was further agreed however, that as the decision might adversely impact on applicants who were, in good faith, currently in the process of completing an application, there needs to be a few weeks 'grace period' following the notice appearing on website; to enable any such 'overspill applications' to be considered. And for this purpose, a sum of £30,000 would be set aside from the current budget provision.



- 6.6 Additionally, part of the decision to suspend the Community Chest fund included transferring the remaining funds within that budget to the Community Events fund.
- 6.7 A cut-off date of 15 July was agreed for acceptance of 'overspill applications' and 10 such applications were received and taken through the agreed eligibility checks and assessment process. As a result, officers have proposed awards with a total value of £18,500 from a total requested amount of £80,605. Were the proposed awards to be approved, a residual amount of £11,500 would remain. In line with the decision regarding this fund, the monies would be transferred to the Community Events fund.
- 6.8 Application details including the organisation name, amount requested, the proposed award and the relating rationale of the applications to the Community Chest are set out in Appendix 1.

### Community Events – Round 3

- 6.9 For the Community Events Fund, 20 applications have been received for this third round. These have gone through the agreed eligibility and assessment process and awards with a total value of £34,500 proposed from a total requested amount of £83,872.
- 6.10 Were the proposed awards to be approved, an available budget of £81,095 would remain available in this fund. A further residual amount of £11,500 could however be available depending upon the award decisions relating to the Community Chest fund: see paragraph 6.7 above for clarification.
- 6.11 Application details including the organisation name, amount requested, the proposed award and the relating rationale of the applications to the Community Events fund are set out in Appendix 2.

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

- 7.1 Funding was set aside as part of the budget process to establish a Community Chest Fund of £250,000 in 2012-13 and £338,000 in 2013-14. In addition, a Community Events Fund was also set up, with total "one-off" funding of £100,000. In the case of both funds, resources were carried forward between 2012-13 and 2013-14 to meet outstanding commitments relating to the grants awarded.
- 7.2 This report is the third to be considered by the Corporate Grants Programme Board to allocate funding from the Community Chest and the Community Events resources. To date the Board has approved the allocation of a total of £407,805 for the Community Chest and £134,600

for Community Events, leaving unallocated balances of £180,195 and - £34,000 respectively.

- 7.3 It was agreed by the Corporate Grants Programme Board on 11 June that the Community Chest programme be temporarily suspended and that the residual funds be transferred to the Community Events budget, apart from £30,000 of uncommitted Community Chest resources which would be set-aside to finance projects that were still in the process of consideration. This had the effect of revising the uncommitted Community Events budget to £115,595 and the Community Chest to £30,000.
- 7.4 The various bids received subsequently have been independently assessed by the Council's Third Sector Team and the recommended awards, based on officer assessment, are outlined in Appendices 1 and 2. The recommended bids total £18,500 for the Community Chest and £34,500 for Community Events.
- 7.5 The overall financing summary is shown in the table in paragraph 1.6. As can be seen, this will leave uncommitted resources of £92,595 which, in line with the decision of 11 June, will all be available for allocation to Community Events.
- 7.6 Grant payments will be made in stages to the successful organisations. In part these will be dependent on the achievement of various delivery milestones. It is essential that the targets and grant criteria are met to ensure that the Council's resources are protected.

## **8. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)**

- 8.1 The Council offered community chest funding to assist organisations which are based in Tower Hamlets and delivering services in Tower Hamlets to develop capacity and become more effective and sustainable. The Council offers community events funding to assist in the planning and staging of community focused events and initiatives.
- 8.2 The support of community organisations in this way may help to deliver the Tower Hamlets Community Plan, which sets out the Council's sustainable community strategy for the purposes of section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. Section 9 of the report provides information relevant to this consideration, as do the appendices.
- 8.3 It is reasonable for the Council to make small grants in support of its sustainable community strategy. The grants may also be supportable by other of the Council's statutory powers. For example, the Council has power under section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 to support the provision of entertainment in the borough. The Council also 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 (which may include supporting community organisations). Grant recommendations should only be included in this report where officers are satisfied they further the Community Plan or are otherwise supported by one of the Council's statutory powers.

- 8.4 It is reasonable for the Council to set guidelines for how it will approach grant decisions and to follow those guidelines. This should promote consistency and transparency.
- 8.5 When determining what support to provide to community organisations, 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.

## **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 the Community Chest and Community Events Funds will therefore 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 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 these funding streams 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.

## **14. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Community Chest Fund (see attached Mayoral decision proforma)  
Appendix 2: Community Events Fund (see attached mayoral decision proforma)