

MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE DECISION MAKING

Friday, 17 January 2014

Mayor's Decision Log No. 46 Response to Call-In

1. **COMMUNITY CHEST AND COMMUNITY EVENTS FUND ROUND 4
(RESPONSE TO CALL-IN) (Pages 1 - 24)**

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: 046

Title: Community Chest and Community Events Fund – Round 4

Is this a Key Decision:

Mayor's provisional decision published 3rd December 2013 – No.

UNRESTRICTED / RESTRICTED:

Unrestricted

DATE OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:

7th January 2014

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:-

There are a number of important questions which are not addressed by the report accompanying the decision which we believe warrant further scrutiny.

One key point of concern is that little if any justification has been given for the decision to move £161,695 from Community Grants fund to the Community Events fund. With such a significant sum being reassigned we think it is only right that O&S is given the opportunity to seek clarity about the reasoning behind this.

We ask the Committee to consider a number of specific issues:

- Following the decision to move £161,695 from Community Grants into the Community Events fund there will no longer be any community grants budget for the remainder of the year. By contrast there is now an unspent events budget of almost £80,000 all to be spent between January and April 2014. It is our opinion that allocating an additional £80,000 budget for events in the months running up to the 2014 election without giving any real justification raises real questions about the politicisation of the Mayor's allocation of tax payer funds.
- The Mayor states in his decision that *"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 the view of the perceived potential community benefits."*
- The Mayoral Decision does not however state what factors he believed justified his decision was based on nor what differences with officer recommendations he had. It appears highly likely that what instead of actually carefully considering the impact of this grant funding the Mayor has just copied and pasted his previous mayoral decision notice as this decision is virtually identical to that made on the 19th June this year. We would ask that the O&S committee look into this and to ask the Mayor on what he based his decisions and why he has abdicated his responsibility to have informed and clear regard to the allocations of funding.
- To be sure of any discrepancies between the original officer advice and the final decision we would ask that the O&S Committee request all papers and assessments which went to the CGPB as well as the individual funding applications themselves to be sure they meet the relevant criteria for this fund.
- Following previous grant awards it is clear that there are serious concerns about the way in which grants funding is allocated. Round 3, only two months ago, saw the Mayor choose to award £8,500 of funding to commercial media organisations yet he refused to fund the Citizens Advice Bureaux to run welfare reform advice sessions. We would also like to know if, and if not why not, bids from organisations submitted as part of Round 3 were included in consideration for Round 4 of the Community Events fund.

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:-

That the Mayor reconsiders his decision for the following reasons:

- The decision should be reconsidered in view of the administrative errors made to ensure that unsuccessful organisations have not been punished because of those errors.
- Consideration should be given to reinstating the money into the Community Chest.
- All minutes should be made available to the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Due to the serious concerns over the public perception of the use of money in the run up to the election and there should be a condition added to any funding agreement, preventing invitations to political parties to attend events, to ensure that there is no undue political gain or publicity and to protect the integrity of the Borough.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

The OSC had before them the Mayoral Decision Pro-forma considered and signed by the Mayor (published 3rd December 2013) and the "Call In" Requisition signed by six Councillors (declared valid 10th December 2013).

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

Councillor Jackson 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 as set out in the report and to address these as follows:

- There was concern that following the decision to move £161,695 from Community Grants into the Community Events fund there would no longer be any community grants budget for the remainder of the year. However, there was now an unallocated events budget of almost £80,000 all to be spent between January and April 2014. There was concern about allocating an additional £80,000 budget for events in the months running up to the 2014 election without giving any real justification. There was also concern that the budget would be used for things not included in the Council's overall budget considerations.
- The Mayor stated in his decision that "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 the view of the perceived potential community benefits." It was felt that Appendix 1 did not give the rationale behind the comments.

- The Mayoral Decision did not however state what factors he believed justified his decision was based on nor what differences with officer recommendations he had. It appears highly likely that what instead of actually carefully considering the impact of this grant funding the Mayor has just copied and pasted his previous mayoral decision notice as this decision is virtually identical to that made on the 19th June this year. We would ask that the O&S committee look into this and to ask the Mayor on what he based his decisions and why he has abdicated his responsibility to have informed and clear regard to the allocations of funding.
- To be sure of any discrepancies between the original officer advice and the final decision we would ask that the O&S Committee request all papers and assessments which went to the CGPB as well as the individual funding applications themselves to be sure they meet the relevant criteria for this fund.
- The latest round of Community Chest grants had been decided in secret and had not been made properly public. This was concerning as it was felt that this had an impact on the community and it was not felt that the Council was serving the voluntary sector properly.
- It was felt that the Mayor should take back the report for further consideration, giving rationale for his decision.

Councillor Alibor Choudhury, Cabinet Member for Resources indicated that he would do his best to deal with any matters raised by the Committee, however he had addressed many of the points at previous call-in meetings and would not respond to questions relating to individual organisations. He responded to the concerns raised by the "Call-in" Members:

- Funds were transferred from Community Chest to Community Events as the Community Events was a more successful funding stream with a bigger demand and a higher number of applications.
- The Corporate Grants Programme Board (CGPB) has looked at the discrepancies and these have now been addressed.
- The CGPD has a remit to make recommendations to the Mayor on applications for grant funding and there is a clear process set out for doing this. All successful applications for grant funding demonstrated clear community objectives and social benefits.

Members of the Committee sought clarification from Councillor Choudhury on the following points:

- How the success of the funding stream was measured and what were the actual benefits and outcomes of the community events.
- Whether the Voluntary Sector still needed the same level of support in the current climate;
- Whether the restrictions of the pre-election purdah period also applied to attendance at Council funded events;
- Concern was expressed over the closed nature of the process and the process for challenge. A request was made to make papers available to Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and clarification was sought as to why they weren't already made readily available.
- What compensation was made to those organisations that had been cut off from funding due to administrative errors and what support is given to small organisations that are refused funding to make a successful application in the future.

Councillor Choudhury responded as follows:

- £426,305 had been allocated to date which had delivered benefits and had built capacity for a number of community organisations. The measurable outputs would be provided for Members of the Committee. 107 applications had been received which benefited a range of groups in the Borough.
- The Voluntary Sector still needed to be supported financially by the Council due to central government cuts. It played an important role in improving the lives of residents through local service delivery. The Council would continue to provide assistance to organisations to generate their own income if possible.
- There would be no funding of community events during the pre-election purdah period.
- The minutes of the Grants Board meetings were available on request and there was a clear process for scrutinising the individual Mayoral Decisions through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee call-in process.
- The Council acknowledged its responsibility to the Voluntary Sector and it would continue to support organisations and applications where possible. It should also be noted that the Council awarded nearly £250,000 to the Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) to provide such support. The CVS had also been made aware of the Members' concerns.
- The process was not secret and the scrutiny process was important as it was vital to have an accountable process and the Executive would continue to cooperate as much as possible. It was acknowledged that an administrative error had been made and this had been picked up and rectified.

The Chair concluded the Members' questions by proposing that the Rationale column in Appendix 1 be amended to read "Officer comments" to provide clarity. The Chair thanked Councillor Alibor Choudhury for his presentation

and his responses given. Councillor Choudhury and Councillor Ohid Ahmed then left the room while the Committee considered the Call-in.

The Chair advised the Committee that he had raised the issue of the decisions being taken in secret and he had been assured by the Mayor at the last meeting of the Cabinet in December that he did not take decisions in secret. However it had transpired that the decision which was the subject of the Call-in had been taken the day before the last Cabinet meeting.

A discussion ensued which covered the following points:

- It was felt that the Cabinet Member was aware of the need to demonstrate outcomes and should acknowledge this requirement.
- This was important funding and there needed to be an honest and frank discussion about where the funding was being directed as it was felt that it was not benefiting the Borough as a whole. It was felt that the funding was being directed to certain areas in the West of the Borough where the Mayor had the majority of his voter base.
- It was important to maintain the integrity of the Committee and all sets of minutes relating to the transfer of the funds should be made available to Committee Members.
- There was concern regarding the pre-election purdah period and if any events during this period had been previously funded by the Council, the Mayor should not be able to attend and benefit from the publicity.
- There was concern that there were a number of organisations which had been established by young inexperienced entrepreneurs in the Borough who needed more assistance than others when making grant applications. Concern was also expressed over the administrative errors made and the groups which had been unsuccessful.
- Funds should be transferred back to the Community Chest as there needed to be resilience and a balance between the two funding streams.
- In addition to the minutes, the Members of the Committee needed to see the officers' recommendations, the Equality Impact Assessments, the criteria which needed to be met by applicants and all the organisations who had applied. It was important to protect the Council's reputation and to demonstrate openness and transparency.
- Concern was expressed over the process for calling in these decisions. It was not felt to be effective enough as Members were given the same information every time and there was little value to the process if the information was not forthcoming. It was questioned whether the current process worked for the community.

In summarising the discussion the Chair concurred with the points made the Committee and asked whether the current system was working for the community. He proposed that the decision be referred back to the Mayor for the following reasons:

- The decision should be reconsidered in view of the administrative errors made to ensure that unsuccessful organisations have not been punished because of those errors.

- Consideration should be given to reinstating the money into the Community Chest.
- All minutes should be made available to the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Due to the serious concerns over the public perception of the use of money in the run up to the election and there should be a condition added to any funding agreement, preventing invitations to political parties to attend events, to ensure that there is no undue political gain or publicity and to protect the integrity of the Borough.

The Chair noted a suggestion that there be a further report on general grants issues submitted to a future meeting of the Committee. He advised that he had asked officers to provide a map of where funding had been awarded in the Borough; the criteria for assessment and the officer recommendations. To date this information had not been forthcoming. It was important to set a deadline for receipt of this information.

Members asked that the following information be provided before the next meeting:

- Information previously requested on the Third Sector organisations which had contacted the Council and had been advised that there was no funding available.
- A Map of funding within the Borough, although it was noted that this was complex and would take longer to produce.
- The criteria for grant assessment.
- Officer recommendations on grants received.
- All remaining minutes and reports of Grants Board meetings since the MSG round was concluded which had not been previously circulated to Members of the Committee.
- Clarification of the purdah rules in relation to Council funded events.
- A summary of the outcomes and achievements of all Council grant funded events for the last two years.

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. To request that officers produce a report for the next meeting of the Committee on general grants issues, encompassing the information requested as detailed above.

DECISION OF THE MAYOR

I have reconsidered my decision Log No. 046 "Community Chest and Community Events Fund – Round 4" in the light of the information provided by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 7th January 2014 as set out above.

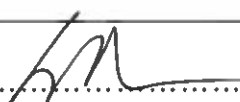
Having taken into account all of the relevant information I have decided to:-


(a) Confirm my decision, of 2nd December published on 3rd December 2013, on the matter*; or

~~(b) Amend my decision, of 2nd December published on 3rd December 2013, on the matter as follows*:-~~

.....
.....

(* Delete as applicable)

Signed 	Date <u>17/1/14</u>
Mayor Lutfur Rahman	

Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma Decision Log No: 46	 TOWER HAMLETS
Recommendation of: Corporate Grants Programme Board	Classification: Unrestricted
Community Chest and Community Events Fund – Round 4	

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

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Since the launch of the Community Chest and Community Events funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board meetings held on 11 April, 11 June and 17 September 2013 respectively have recommended the following for consideration by the Mayor.

Community Chest

- Round 1 - £301,212
- Round 2 - £106,593
- Round 3 - £18,500
- Total £426,305**

Community Events

- Round 1 - £68,150
- Round 2 - £66,450
- Round 3 - £34,500
- Total £169,100**

- 1.2 Round 1 and 2 of these sets of recommendations were subsequently approved by the Mayor while Round 3 is currently going through the approval process.
- 1.3 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.

1.4 For the Community Events Fund, 6 applications have been received for this fourth round. These have been considered against the agreed eligibility and assessment criterion and awards with a total value of £12,700 proposed from a total amount requested of £28,330. Were proposed awards to be approved (and bearing in mind the decision to transfer funds from the Community Chest budget) £79,895 would remain available in this fund.

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

	Community Chest	Community Events
Budget 2012-13	£250,000	£100,000
Budget 2013-14	£338,000	
Transfer of funds from Community Chest to Community Events (CGPB 17 Sept decision)	-£161,695	£161,695
Total 2012-14	£426,305	£261,695
Approved Awards Round 1 April 2013	£301,212	£68,150*
Approved Awards Round 2 June 2013	£106,593	£66,450
Approved Awards Round 3 September 2013	£18,500	£34,500
Remaining funds available 2013-14	£0	£92,595
Proposed Awards Round 4	£0	£12,700
Balance available for remainder of 2013/14 (if above proposed awards are agreed)	£0	£79,895

*includes £12,000 spent in 2012/13

1.7 Details of applications received for which awards are recommended are summarised below in Appendix 1. 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 Events Funding totalling £12,700 as set out in Appendix 1 below.
- 2.2 Authorise officers to issue Grant Agreements for the Community Events Fund in line with established procedures to and implement the agreed payment and monitoring arrangements.

Appendix 1

Community Events					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Event or Activities	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE-101	Bromley By Bow Cultural & Youth Project, 31 Larson Walk E14 9HZ	Award ceremony - for the young people who have attended Math, Science, English classes and community language, Arabic classes and outdoor activities provided by the group. It is anticipated about 150-200 young people and 60-80 families from diverse backgrounds and reflective of the local community will attend.	£4,775	£0	Some of the items requested are not justified, including, consultation meeting with young people and special dresses and bags for each child with the group's logo. Additionally some of the costs are inflated for example the cost of award certificates. Not recommended for funding.	£0
CE-102	Positive Inclusions, 1st Floor, Towpath House, Limehouse Crt, Dod Street, E14 7EQ	Women and gadgets – international women's day. To support and encourage young women, especially of Bangladeshi and Somali background, who want to start their own Health and Beauty enterprise. To be held on International Women's day on 8 th March 2014.	£3,575	£0	The narrow focus of this event means the proposal is not recommended for funding.	£0
CE-103	Selfless, The Whitechapel centre, 85 Myrdle Street, London, E1 1HL	Volunteering Project – Launch of an online platform connecting charities, local community organisations, and other good causes with young people. Through this website they aim to ensure that young adults with a passion, skill, qualification or interest in a particular area can connect with the right opportunities where they can be best utilised.	£5,000	£2,500	The project will be engaging local sixth form schools and FE college. Additionally, as part of the project the group will be producing a mini guide to volunteering, which will have a life span far beyond the project end date.	£2,500

Community Events					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Event or Activities	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE - 104	UK Carrom Federation , Unit 2, 20B Spelman Street, London E1 5LQ	<p>Carrom competition - The applicant, UK Carrom Federation, is a registered organisation and member of the International Carrom Federation (ICF) and European Carrom Confederation (ECC).</p> <p>The group would like to arrange tournaments that attracts the local youth and children with incentive of giving prizes and be able to allow free entrance to the European and International games that happens annually.</p>	£4,980	£1,700	<p>The proposed project is clearly set out, but the group did not fully address why the project is needed and how it represents good value for money. The applicant could have better articulated the outcome of the event and its impact on participants. Additionally, some of the costs are not justified, for example Professional costs at £600.</p> <p>It is proposed that the project is supported with reduced grant not exceeding £1,700.</p>	£1,700
CE - 105	Kayd Somali Arts and Culture , Registered address: Flat2, 222 Walworth Road, London, SE17 1JE Based at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2 6HG	Somali Week Festival - Somali Week Festival (SWF), planned to fall during Black History Month, aiming to showcases Somali poetry, literature, music and discussions.	£5,000	£3,500	The proposed project has many merits and benefits to local community. It is clearly described and widely supported by a range of funders and sponsors as well as the local community.	£3,500
CE - 106	Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK , 13 Senrab Street, London E1 0QE	Annual Event celebrating achievement – previous events have celebrated the success of young British Bangladeshis. The event for which funding is sought will expand and recognise the achievements of other communities.	£5,000	£5,000	An additional £10,000 is to be brought in from sponsorship and personal contribution by the trustees. The aim of celebrating achievement from different communities is supported.	£5,000
TOTAL			£28,330	£12,700		£12,700

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.

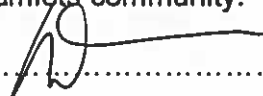
In considering those recommendations I have questioned four Community Chest funding applications where the proposed funding awards, as listed in Appendix 1 had negative comments originating from programme officers against them.

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.

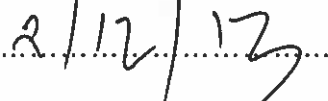
I have therefore asked officers to ensure arrangements are in place to put processes in place to support those organisations through increased due diligence, requests for clarification or additional information. Alternatively, issues may be dealt with through the grant negotiation process, whereby conditions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

Recommendation of the Corporate Grants Programme Board

1. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy

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

Signed *C. Wilson* Date *20/11/13* *cr.*

2. 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 *J. Bell* Date *22/11/13*

3. Mayor

I agree the decision proposed in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 in the attached report.

Signed *M* Date *2/12/13*

**Report to the Corporate Grants Programme Board
31 October 2013**

Individual Mayoral Decision Corporate Grants Programme Board 31 October 2013	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Corporate Director (Development & Renewal) Originating Officers Dave Clark (Interim Service Head Resources D&R)	Classification: Unrestricted
Community Chest Fund & Community Events Fund – Round 4	

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

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.5 Since the launch of the Community Chest and Community Events funds, the Corporate Grants Programme Board meetings held on 11 April, 11 June and 17 September 2013 respectively have recommended the following for consideration by the Mayor.

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- Round 1 - £301,212
- Round 2 - £106,593
- Round 3 - £18,500
- **Total £426,305**

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- Round 1 - £68,150
- Round 2 - £66,450
- Round 3 - £34,500
- **Total £169,100**

- 1.6 Round 1 and 2 of these sets of recommendations were subsequently approved by the Mayor while Round 3 is currently going through the approval process.

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 Events Fund, 6 applications have been received for this fourth round. These have been considered against the agreed eligibility and assessment criterion and awards with a total value of £12,700 proposed from a total amount requested of £28,330. Were proposed awards to be approved (and bearing in mind the decision to transfer funds from the Community Chest budget) £79,895 would remain available in this fund.

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

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*includes £12,000 spent in 2012/13

1.7 Details of applications received for which awards are recommended are summarised below in Appendix 1. 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:

2.3 Agree the proposed awards for Community Events Funding totalling £12,700 as set out in Appendix 1.

- 2.4 Authorise officers to issue Grant Agreements for the Community Events Fund 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 Chest - Round 3: £18,500
- 6.1.4 Community Events - Round 1: £68,150
- 6.1.5 Community Events - Round 2: £66,450
- 6.1.6 Community Events - Round 3: £34,500

- 6.2 As a result of the above approvals and the transfer of the remaining budget from the Community Chest to the Community Events the remaining budget position for the Community Chest is £0; and, the Community Events is £79,895.

- 6.3 Officers have now assessed round 4 applications for the Community Events fund.

Community Events – Round 4

- 6.4 For the Community Events Fund, 6 applications have been received for this fourth round. These have gone through the agreed eligibility and assessment process and awards with a total value of £12,700 proposed from a total requested amount of £28,330.

- 6.11 Were the proposed awards to be approved, an available budget of £79,895 would remain available in this fund.

- 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 1.

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 fourth to be considered by the Corporate Grants Programme Board to allocate funding from the Community Chest and the Community Events resources.
- 7.3 It was agreed by the Corporate Grants Programme Board on 11 June 2013 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 £151,345 and the Community Chest to £30,000 prior to the Round 3 awards. After the Community Chest Round 3 awards of £18,500 the remaining balance of £11,500 was transferred to the Community Events budget.
- 7.4 To date the Board has approved grant awards totalling £426,305 which has now fully allocated the Community Chest Fund and £169,100 for Community Events Fund leaving a balance of £79,895. This can be utilised for future grant awards.
- 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 Appendix 1. The recommended bids for Community Events total £12,700.
- 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 £79,895 which, in line with the decision of 11 June, will all be available for allocation to Community Events.
- 7.6 The first 50% of the grant will be made upon the signing of the Grant Agreement. The remaining grant will be paid upon receipt of evidence that the outputs / activity has been delivered or achieved. 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 Events Fund

Appendix 1 – Community Events Fund

Community Events					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Event or Activities	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE-101	Bromley By Bow Cultural & Youth Project, 31 Larson Walk E14 9HZ	Award ceremony - for the young people who have attended Math, Science, English classes and community language, Arabic classes and outdoor activities provided by the group. It is anticipated about 150-200 young people and 60-80 families from diverse backgrounds and reflective of the local community will attend.	£4,775	£0	Some of the items requested are not justified, including, consultation meeting with young people and special dresses and bags for each child with the group's logo. Additionally some of the costs are inflated for example the cost of award certificates. Not recommended for funding.	
CE-102	Positive Inclusions, 1st Floor, Towpath House, Limehouse Crt, Dod Street, E14 7EQ	Women and gadgets – international women's day. To support and encourage young women, especially of Bangladeshi and Somali background, who want to start their own Health and Beauty enterprise. To be held on International Women's day on 8 th March 2014.	£3,575	£0	The narrow focus of this event means the proposal is not recommended for funding.	
CE-103	Selfless, The Whitechapel centre, 85 Myrdle Street, London, E1 1HL	Volunteering Project - an online platform connecting charities, local community organisations, and other good causes with young people. Through this website they aim to ensure that young adults with a passion, skill, qualification or interest in a particular area can connect with the right opportunities where they can be best utilised.	£5,000	£2,500	The project will be engaging local sixth form schools and FE college. Additionally, as part of the project the group will be producing a mini guide to volunteering, which will have a life span far beyond the project end date.	

Community Events					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Event or Activities	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
CE - 104	UK Carrom Federation, Unit 2, 20B Spelman Street, London E1 5LQ	<p>Carrom competition - The applicant, UK Carrom Federation, is a registered organisation and member of the International Carrom Federation (ICF) and European Carrom Confederation (ECC).</p> <p>The group would like to arrange tournaments that attracts the local youth and children with incentive of giving prizes and be able to allow free entrance to the European and International games that's happens annually.</p>	£4,980	£1,700	<p>The proposed project is clearly set out, but the group did not fully address why the project is needed and how it represents good value for money. The applicant could have better articulated the outcome of the event and its impact on participants. Additionally, some of the costs are not justified, for example Professional costs at £600.</p> <p>It is proposed that the project is supported with reduced grant not exceeding £1,700.</p>	
CE - 105	Kayd Somali Arts and Culture, Registered address: Flat2, 222 Walworth Road, London, SE17 1JE Based at Oxford House, Derbyshire Street, E2 6HG	Somali Week Festival - Somali Week Festival (SWF), planned to fall during Black History Month, aiming to showcases Somali poetry, literature, music and discussions.	£5,000	£3,500	The proposed project has many merits and benefits to local community. It is clearly described and widely supported by a range of funders and sponsors as well as the local community.	
CE - 106	Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK, 13 Senrab Street, London E1 0QE	Annual Event celebrating achievement – previous events have celebrated the success of young British Bangladeshis. The event for which funding is sought will expand and recognise the achievements of other communities.	£5,000	£5,000	An additional £10,000 is to be brought in from sponsorship and personal contribution by the trustees. The aim of celebrating achievement from different communities is supported.	
TOTAL			£28,330	£12,700		

