

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING
MEETING**

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Sir Ken Knight	(Commissioner)
Chris Allison	(Commissioner)
Max Caller	(Commissioner)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services)

Officers Present:

Alison Denning	(Festivals and Events Officer, Communities Localities and Culture)
Andy Bamber	(Service Head Safer Communities, Crime Reduction Services, Communities, Localities and Culture)
Keith Burns	(Programme Director Special Projects, Commissioning & Health, Education Social Care & Wellbeing)
Zena Cooke	(Corporate Director, Resources)
Hasan Faruq	Service Development Manager (Interim) CSF
Chris Holme	(Service Head, Resources & Economic Development)
Shazia Hussain	(Service Head Culture, Learning and Leisure, Communities Localities & Culture)
Pam MacMeikan	(Arts & Events Manager, Communities Localities and Culture)
Terry Parkin	Interim Service Head, Learning & Achievement
Antonella Burgio	(Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Commissioner Alan Wood.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The published decisions of the meetings held on 29 July 2015 and 19 August 2015 were noted.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

No public submission requests were received for consideration.

5. EXERCISE OF COMMISSIONERS' DISCRETIONS

The Chair introduced the report and informed all present that Commissioners' intention is that their decisions be made in an open and transparent manner. However on occasion urgent matters have arisen which have required an expedited decision. A mechanism has been implemented to record and publish these expedited decisions to ensure that transparency is maintained. The Chair advised that the report lists all such decisions made by Commissioners since inception. Additionally any future decision made under urgency would also be reported in this way.

RESOLVED

That the decisions taken under urgency listed in the report be noted.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Event Fund Applications

Pam MacMeikan Arts & Events Manager, introduced the report which asked Commissioners to approve event grant applications set out in appendix B to the report and to consider an operational delegation of powers permitting the Service Head to approve small event grants since the calendar of events grants did not coincide with the programme of Commissioners' Decision Making Meetings.

Members were invited to comment. Councillor Saunders queried how the delegation would be undertaken but had no objection providing that members were able to access details of the applications made. Cllr Golds indicated that he had no comments that he wished to make.

Commissioners considered the proposals and did not object to the requested delegation on condition that it was effective until the end of the financial year only and that Arts and Events officers provide a quarterly report of applications funded to Commissioners in the same manner required of other sections of the Council which issue grants.

RESOLVED

1. That funding for new Event Fund applications as set out in Appendix B be approved.
2. That funding for new Event Fund applications as set out in Appendix C be rejected.
3. That the existing monthly cycle of Event Fund applications be retained and decision making to award grants be delegated to the Service Head – Culture, Learning & Leisure for the remainder of the financial year, in light of the low value of individual grants and the annual budget overall.
4. That Commissioners receive a quarterly report of applications funded via this delegation.

6.2 Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) Grant

Andy Bamber, Service Head Safer Communities, introduced the report concerning a grant for young people which enabled them to fund beneficial youth activities and projects for themselves and the local community. He noted that there was a historic funding under-representation in the north east of the borough which was being addressed in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Councillor Saunders and Councillor Golds supported the mechanisms now being implemented for the distribution of grants. Councillor Golds noted that, in addition to the north east borough, Isle of Dogs was under-represented in regard to this funding and requested that this be investigated.

Commissioners did not wish to make any observations and agreed the recommendations as set out in the report

RESOLVED

That the proposal of the PAYP/YOF Grant Board to allocate grants for the YOF programme this year to the 32 'green RAG rated' organisations be approved, for the amounts shown as highlighted in green on the spreadsheet attached as Appendix 1, such grant awards totalling £66,427

6.3 Future Funding of New Belvedere House (NBH) Ex Servicemen's Hostel

Keith Burns, Programme Director Special Projects, Commissioning & Health introduced the update report which informed members of the future independent funding arrangements for Belvedere House, a facility for ex-service personnel.

The Chair asked attending Members to respond to the information presented and they indicated that they had no observations that they wished to make.

Commissioners considered the update and also did not wish to make any observations.

RESOLVED

1. That it be noted that Veteran's Aid have formally indicated to the Council that they will not require grant funding beyond 2015/16; and
2. That it be noted that following analysis of the 2015/16 operating budget for New Belvedere House officers have confirmed that the amount of grant to be paid to Veteran's Aid in respect of this service will be £150,275, and that this amount is within the limits authorised by the Commissioners in April 2015.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

The Chair advised that he had agreed to admit the following reports as items of urgent business to enable those students who have applied for maintenance awards to be informed at the start of term.

7.1 Resolution of Grant Payments: Children's Services (Educational Maintenance Allowances)

Terry Parkin Interim Service Head, Learning & Achievement introduced the report which proposed to continue the existing bursary and to rename it. The bursary was previously presented to commissioners on 27 May 2015 and deferred to enable the award to be linked to outcome based parameters.

Councillor Saunders and Councillor Golds supported the proposals. Councillor Golds also requested that a summary of applications and uptake according to geographical area be provided.

Commissioners clarified that the present scheme would be continued pending the development of a new better targeted educational maintenance scheme via Cabinet. Commissioners also asked that an annual report be brought setting out how the scheme has been allocated and which allocations have been successful and unsuccessful.

RESOLVED

1. That the continuation of the Educational Maintenance Grant be approved but the grant be renamed the Tower Hamlets Educational Maintenance Allowance
2. That the terms and conditions be noted, under which the impact of the revised grant is to be measured.
3. That an annual report be made setting out how the scheme has been allocated and which allocations have been successful and unsuccessful

4. That a new better targeted education maintenance scheme be developed in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and presented to Cabinet

7.2 Resolution of Grant Payments: Children's Services -Ocean Estate Bursary and Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf Trust

Terry Parkin Interim Service Head, Learning & Achievement introduced the report which clarified the powers for the payment of awards by Ocean Estate Bursary and TH and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust to ensure that payment did not contravene the Secretary of State's directions of 17 December 2014.

The Chair asked attending Members to respond to the information presented and they indicated that they had no observations that they wished to make.

Commissioners noted that the governance arrangements of TH and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust provided that two trustees be Members of the Council. They wished to ensure that, should the Council be required to contribute to this award in future, the Council's representation in this Trust should not be a majority and that any casting vote should not be in the gift of Mayoral nominated trustees. Mr Parkin confirmed that the Trust's articles provided that the Chair of Trustees with casting vote be an independent person. He also agreed to report on the structure and governance arrangements of the TH and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust.

RESOLVED

That it be noted that the payment of the grants from the Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf Further Education Trust, and the Ocean Estate Bursary fall outside the remit of Commissioner decisions.

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

Chair: Sir Ken Knight
COMMISSIONER