

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 12 JANUARY 2016

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

Members Present:

Max Caller (In the Chair)	(Commissioner)
Chris Allison	(Commissioner)
Alan Wood	(Commissioner)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services)
Mayor John Biggs	Mayor

Officers Present:

Andy Bamber	(Service Head Safer Communities, Crime Reduction Services, Communities, Localities and Culture)
Zena Cooke	(Corporate Director, Resources)
Alison Denning	(Festivals and Events Officer, Communities Localities and Culture)
Barbara Disney	(Service Manager, Strategic Commissioning, Adults Health & Wellbeing)
Everett Haughton	(Third Sector Programmes Manager, Third Sector Team, Development and Renewal)
Shazia Hussain	(Service Head Culture, Learning and Leisure, Communities Localities & Culture)
Carrie Kilpatrick	(Supporting People Manager)
Caroline Billington	(Commssioning Manager, Tower Hamlets CCG)
Antonella Burgio	(Democratic Services)

ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

A Chair for the duration of the meeting was sought from amongst the Commissioners. Chris Allison nominated, Alan Wood seconded and it was

RESOLVED

That Max Caller be appointed Chair for the duration of the meeting.

COMMISSIONER MAX CALLER IN THE CHAIR

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Commissioner Sir Ken Knight.

Apologies also were noted from Councillor Peter Golds

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The published decisions of the meeting held on 2 December 2015 were noted and signed as a corrected record of proceedings.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Commissioners were informed that there had been no requests to make a public submission relating to any item published in the agenda.

5. EXERCISE OF COMMISSIONERS' DISCRETIONS

No Commissioner decisions had been taken under urgency since the last Commissioners Decision Making Meeting.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) North East Cluster only - February Half Term (Monday 15th to Friday 19th Feb 2016)

Andy Bamber, Service Head Safer Communities, presented the report which concerned funding for a half-term holiday programme aimed to engage and enhance the development of young people and also those with special educational needs and learning difficulties. The scheme aimed to address under provision in the North East of the Borough.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders to comment on the proposals and she indicated that she supported the application.

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

RESOLVED

That the recommendation of the PAYP Commissioning Board to allocate grants up to a maximum £2,000 for 5 organisations and up to

£3,500 for 1 SEND projects (a total of 6 organisations) as highlighted at item numbers 1-6 (in green) in Appendix 1 be approved.

6.2 Adult Services Small Grants for Pensioners' Groups 2015/16

Barbara Disney, Service Manager, Strategic Commissioning, presented the report which concerned small grants for older peoples clubs to alleviate social isolation and loneliness in this group of residents.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders to comment on the proposals and she indicated that she broadly supported the proposals.

Commissioners noted the proposals and that some of the organisations (paragraph 3.13) delivered their services from Council-owned buildings. To ensure probity in their decisions, Commissioners wished to make grants to organisations where there were no unresolved irregularities, in this instance involving property matters. Commissioners therefore decided to defer the applications that had been made by the 5 organisations operating from Council-owned property until all property issues were resolved.

RESOLVED

1. That the award of the Adults Services Small Grants for Pensioners' Groups 2015/16 to groups delivering social activities and peer support to older people in Tower Hamlets, as detailed at Appendix A except: Barleymow Veterans Club, Collingwood Estate Friendship Club, Cranbrook's Over 50's Club, Wapping Community Group and Will Crooks TRA be approved
2. That the award of the Adults Services Small Grants for Pensioners' for Barleymow Veterans Club, Collingwood Estate Friendship Club, Cranbrook's Over 50's Club, Wapping Community Group and Will Crooks TRA be deferred pending resolution of property issues and that a report on these applications be re-presented at the next Commissioners Decision Making Meeting.
3. That use of the underspend from the Small Grants budget in respect of the above award be endorsed.

6.3 Events Fund applications

Shazia Hussain, Service Head Culture, Learning and Leisure presented the report which concerned a request for continued delegation of Events Fund awards to the Service Head Culture, Learning and Leisure to enable the programme of events, under a monthly cycle of applications, to be administered effectively and grants issued in a timely manner.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders to comment on the proposals and she indicated that she supported the proposals which should be implemented and reported in an open and transparent manner.

Commissioners were concerned that:

1. The grants should be used for purposes/events that were in sympathy with Mayor's Key Strategic Priorities. They decided that a primary clause should be included in the application criteria that no applications may be considered for funding where the purpose of the event did not support the Mayor's Key Strategic Priorities.
2. That use of this funding should be reported transparently. They therefore asked that a quarterly report of events funded be made to the Commissioners Decision Making Meeting.

RESOLVED

1. That it be agreed that delegated authority to approve Event Fund awards remain with the Service Head for Culture Leisure and Learning.
2. That a quarterly report of awards be made in arrears to the next nearest Commissioners Decision Making Meeting.
3. That it be agreed that the existing monthly cycle of applications be retained.
4. That a primary clause be included in the application criteria that no applications may be considered for funding where the purpose of the event did not support the Mayor's Key Strategic Priorities.

6.4 MSG Payment By Results

Everett Haughton, Third Sector Programmes Manager, presented the report which concerned proposed amendments to the calculation of the results ratings for organisations receiving MSG funding. These would require organisations to self-monitor performance in addition to monitoring administered by Council Officers. The parameters for ratings were given at paragraph 3.6.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders to comment on the proposals and she indicated that she supported the proposals.

Commissioner Max Caller supported the approach which encouraged organisations receiving Main Stream Grant funding to proactively manage their affairs. Commissioners approved the recommendations as set out in the report.

RESOLVED

1. That the change to the RAG rating calculation as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report be approved
2. That the amended payment arrangements as set out in paragraph 3.7 of the report be approved.

6.5 Mental Health User Led Grants Programme

Carrie Kilpatrick Director of Health and Joint Commissioning Tower Hamlets CCG presented the report which concerned the continuation of Mental Health User Led Grants programme for a further three years to deliver preventative support to residents with mental health problems. The organisations listed at appendix A were in receipt of this funding which would expire in March 2016 at which time a reapplication for funding would be required.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders to comment on the proposals and she indicated that she broadly supported the proposals.

Commissioners were broadly supportive of the proposals and noted that a report would be brought in April 2016 to consider recommendations arising from the application process. However they expressed the following concerns:

- Stifford MH User Led Group operated from a Council owned property; a grant may be paid subject that the property agreement with the Council is complete.
- Osmani MH User Led Group had no property arrangement in place and therefore a grant should be deferred until the matter is addressed.

RESOLVED

1. That the commencement of the Mental Health User Led grants programme be approved at the current level of spend of £85,500
 - a. for 12 months renewable dependent on outcomes performance for a further year and
 - b. subject to regularised property arrangements with the Council where relevant.
2. That the criteria under which the grants will be awarded be approved.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Nil items.

The meeting ended at 6.48 p.m.

In the Chair: Max Caller
COMMISSIONER