

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GRANTS SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2017

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

Members Present:

Councillor Andrew Wood (Chair)
Councillor Clare Harrisson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Candida Ronald (Member)
Councillor Shafi Ahmed (Member)
Margherita De Cristofano (Co-Optee) Ms
Councillor Danny Hassell

Officers Present:

Mohammed Ahad	Community Programmes Officer, Third Sector Team
Jonathan Fox	Legal Services
Steve Hill	Head of Benefits Services
Ludovica Orlando	Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer
Rachael Sadegh	Service Manager Substance Misuse

Others Present

Rebecca Omonira	Open Democracy
Susie Camplin	Open Democracy
Chloe Leung	Goldsmiths University

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ayas Miah and Councillor Muhammad Ansar Mustaqim. Apologies were also received from Sirajul Islam, co-opted member of the sub-committee.

Councillor Danny Hassell was deputising for Councillor Ayas Miah.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Candida Ronald and Councillor Clare Harrisson declared they knew of the organisations referred in the report, item 7.1, as they were in their respective wards however they have had no formal or informal contact with the organisations mentioned.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the previous meeting of 6th September were approved as a correct and accurate record of the meeting.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Sub-Committee noted that no public submissions had been submitted to the Committee Officer by the deadline. (5p.m. the day before the meeting.)

5. GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6. SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Ocean Regeneration Trust Grant Funding 2017/18

Officers from the Place Directorate were not in attendance to present their report.

Members had several questions in relation to the report and made the following points:

- Are the units being used?
- What has been done to diversify income?
- Almost identical report from last year. It would be useful if the previous report was referenced – i.e. when it last came to Grants Scrutiny and Grants Determination Committee.
- Sustainability of project needs to be drawn out. Need to see the strategy on how the gap income will be closed.
- Point 1.1 refers to second quarter 2018. What constitutes the 2nd quarter? Is there a gap in the financial year?
- Point 2.2 – for how long does the council need to fund?
- Point 2.1 – will they not receive funding from education sources?
- Appendix 1 – Ground Rent - Has full income yet been realised?
- What other fundraising are they doing?

In conclusion the Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee agreed not to support the recommendation of granting £80k to the Ocean Regeneration Trust as Members required more information.

They **AGREED** to request the Grants Determination Sub-Committee to **DEFER** this item until their next meeting.

6.2 MSG Performance Monitoring April to June 2017

Steve Hill, Head of Benefit Services presented his quarterly report on the Main Stream Grant (MSG) 2015/18 for quarter April to June 2017.

He explained projects were classified as Green, Amber or Red within the Council's agreed performance management framework. For the period of April to June 2017 there were 8 Red rated projects and 2 Amber rated projects.

Members of the Sub-Committee made the following comments and asked questions in relation to the report:

- For those classified as Red, is attendance by participants also considered?
- The issue with Pollyanna Training Theatre has been outstanding for some time. For how long have the performance issues been going on?
- The current achievements of the projects should also be reflected

ACTION: Steve Hill agreed to provide Members with a 2 page summary of each project, outlining the cost of each in a separate pdf pack to be circulated to members with the agenda, via email but will not printed.

Members of the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to recommend to the Grants Determination Sub-Committee to

- i. Consider the recommendations relating to the releasing of MSG payments to the 12 organisations as set out in sections 3.8 to 3.16 of the report

6.3 Innovation Fund Phase 1& 2 Update

Steve Hill, Head of Benefit Services stated the report provided members with an update on the pledges made through the Council's Innovation Fund. The Innovation Fund is being used to match fund for voluntary and community sector organisations that are crowdfunding through the Council's 'Our Tower Hamlets' crowdfunding portal (via spacehive)

Members of the sub-committee made the following comments and asked questions:

- In reference to the table on Page 107, can you clarify what the crowdfunding target refers to and the pitch amount?
- Is £120K – point 5.2 the total amount of money in the fund?
- What analysis are you going to do on those projects/organisations that you match fund?
- Project 1 and Project 3 appear to be similar. What are they trying to achieve?

Members of the Sub-Committee agreed to recommend the Grant's Determination committee to:

- i. Note the report, in particular the pledges made to organisations as detailed in 5.5 of the report.

6.4 Emergency Funding Application - Phase 10, Ashaadibi Education & Cultural Centre

Steve Hill Head of Benefit Services presented this report, stating the Ashaadibi Educational and Cultural Centre were seeking emergency funding as part of the Council's Emergency Funding Scheme. However they did not meet the eligibility criteria for this type of funding and the recommendation was not to grant the funding however offer to support them in a non-financial way.

Members of the Sub-Committee made the following comments and asked questions:

- Is the grant being sought to make their new building useable?
- In reference to the sums provided these do not add up.

Members agreed with the recommendation contained within the report to recommend to the Grants Determination Sub-Committee that:

- i. The officer recommendation not to award emergency funding based on the analysis set out in paragraph 5.2 of the report be agreed and
- ii. That the decision making for future application relating to the Emergency Funding Programme be delegated to the Corporate Director of Resources, after consultation with the Executive Mayor, as detailed in 5.4 of the report.

6.5 Substance Misuse Prescribing Costs

Rachael Sadgeh, Service Manager for Substance Misuse presented her report. She informed Members the Council commissioned a number of treatment interventions for individuals who misuse drugs and alcohol. The primary service providing such interventions is Reset drug/alcohol treatment which is currently contracted to East London Foundation Trust (ELFT). She informed members the cost for this service is met via the Public Health Grant and an important element of treatment is pharmacological therapy. Drugs such as Methadone and Buprenorphine are used as substitutes for illicit opiates.

The cost of prescribing these drugs has been shared over time between the Council and the Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group. A grant to the value of £210k is required to reimburse THCCG for the proportion of costs they have incurred on behalf of the Council, on an annual basis.

Members of the Sub-Committee asked the following questions:

- Why does this need to be a grant? Should it not be part of the Council's commissioning arrangement?
- Can the service work with the Commissioning unit and think about how it can align the cost of this service in the future?

Members agreed the recommendations contained within the report that:

1. The Grants Determination Sub-Committee approve the annual grant to THCCG to the value of £210K to fund drug costs associated with substance misuse treatment interventions for the duration of the current Reset contract with ELFT (due to end on 30th October 2018 or 30th October 2019 if the option to extend is exercised).
2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Health, Adults and Community to approve risk share agreement between THCCG and LBTH.
Note that payment of the grant will be made in arrears at the end of the year in which expenditure was incurred. The first payment will therefore be for the contract year 31st October 2016 to 30th October 2017.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

Members of the Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee had a discussion about which topic it should scrutinise as part of a challenge session at future meetings.

They agreed they would examine Youth Sport Grants as a topic and the Chair will work with the Officer to agree the basis of the enquiry.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Andrew Wood
Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee