

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 5.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 1 AUGUST 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, LONDON E14 2BG

Members Present:

Mayor John Biggs (Chair)	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Candida Ronald	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Equalities)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Marc Francis	(Chair of the Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee)
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Officers Present:

Matthew Phelan	(Public Health Programme Lead (Healthy Environments))
Melanie Sirinathsingh	(Public Health Programme Officer)
Zena Cooke	(Corporate Director, Resources)
Steve Hill	(Head of Benefits Services)
Chloe Lianos	(Project Manager - PLACE Ltd)
Neville Murton	(Divisional Director, Finance, Procurement & Audit)
Janet Fasan	(Divisional Director, Legal)
Zoe Folley	(Committee Officer, Governance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Asma Begum declared an interest in agenda item 6.3 MSG Project Performance Report - Period 10 (Jan 2018 to March 2018). This was on the basis that the report concerned the Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation and her spouse was formerly a trustee of the THYSF.

Councillor Begum did not take participate in the discussion relating to this item

Mayor John Biggs also abstained from the vote on item 7, Emergency Funding Application – Phase 12, Betar Bangla. This was because he had met with the organisation regarding their situation.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

DECISION:

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2018 were presented and approved as a correct record of proceedings.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were no public submissions relating to the agenda items to be considered at the meeting.

5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

The Sub - Committee noted that, since the last meeting, the Mayor had taken no urgent decisions in the form of an Individual Mayoral Decision that related to grants.

6. GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Island Medical Centre: Approval of the Allocation of S106

The Sub-Committee considered the report relating to the release of up to £985,839 of section 106 resources to NHS Tower Hamlets Clinical Commissioning Group to deliver increased capacity access and service provision in the Island Medical Centre.

The Sub-Committee were reminded that the project would allow a greater level of service to be offered to patients. The Centre proposal would deliver a refurbished, and expanded fully equipped modern health facility with 4 additional clinical rooms in the South East Locality. It would have capacity for an additional 5,472 registered patients which would also provide up to 28k new patient appointments.

The Blackwall and Cubitt Town region was in particular need of health infrastructure.

The Mayor enquired and the Chair of the GSSC reported that the Sub-Committee sought additional information on a number of matters. The GSSC endorsed the recommendations.

Responding to these issues, Officers reported that they had contacted the CCG to clarify these points. It was noted that any underspend from the proposals would be ring fenced for the delivery of health care services in the area. It was also reported that Officers were happy to share with Members the

CCG's emerging Estate Management Strategy, when completed and would continue to work with health partners to align population growth with infrastructure improvements. The CCG confirmed that the current provider at Island Medical have not expressed any concern about staffing the additional clinical space. The CCG also confirmed that the GP 'Out of Hours' service is part of a Boroughwide contract commissioned by the GP Care Group. There have been changes to the service recently with NHS 111 providing the main route into the service with enhanced clinical support. All Councillors in the South East Locality had been provided with a briefing to update on recent changes to NHS 111 and 'out of hours' services. Officers were happy to provide further information if necessary.

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on the report. The Sub – Committee welcomed the proposals in view of the issues highlighted in the report.

DECISION

1. That the grant funding of £985,839 to NHS Tower Hamlets CCG be approved to deliver increased capacity, access and service provision in primary care and maintain continuity of local GP services.

6.2 Marnar Family and Community Space

Melanie Sirinathsingh (Public Health Programme Officer) presented the report relating to the release of £34,000 of section 106 funding to resource LBTH to deliver community engagement, co-design and the delivery of a mixed used accessible community garden on the St Leonards Priory Park site in the Bromley North.

The Sub- Committee noted the issues in respect of the condition of the site. It was also noted that there was a shortage of green space in this region to provide amenity space and counteract pollution.

The proposal should help address this shortfall and identify a long term partner to maintain the site.

The Chair invited the Chair of GSSC to comment on the report and it was reported that the GSSC sought assurances about the maintenance issues, the response from community consultation, the air quality testing given the proximity of the site to the A12. The GSSC stated they were satisfied with the answers received and endorsed the recommendations.

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on the report. The Sub-Committee discussed the maintenance arrangements and the need for screening to absorb noise and pollution. Officers reported that they were exploring further measures to secure this. The GDSC supported the recommendation given the merits of the proposals.

DECISION

1. That the grant funding of £34,000 to Public Health be approved to complete the community engagement phase of the project and deliver co-designed improvements to the site to improve the look and feel, improve accessibility and safe use, increase biodiversity/counteract air pollution through wild planting, and provide needed outdoor green space for the local community.

6.3 MSG Project Performance Report - Period 10 (Jan 2018 to March 2018)

Steve Hill, (Head of Benefits Services) presented the Mainstream Grant Monitoring Report. The report covered the performance of MSG projects that had been classified as red and amber.

It was noted that there had been a number of developments since the report had been published as set out below.

Teviot British Bangladeshi Association (rated Red for underperformance)

Following the allocation of a red rating, monitoring officers have met with the organisation to explore ways to resolve some of the issues that existed. Since that time, they had reported that they did not wish to proceed with MSG funding.

The Chair of the GSSC reported that they agreed with the recommendations and questioned whether the funding could be redirected to another project that satisfied the criteria

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on the recommendation. They also questioned whether the above option could be pursued. Officers reported that they would look into whether the funding could be allocated to a project within the existing MSG cohort and would report back to the Committee at the September meeting.

Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre (rated Amber for not submitting monitoring return but notifying us in advance)

The organisation had contacted the monitoring officers to notify them that the monitoring forms would be late as they were busy with school activities. Given they had provided advanced notification of this, it was recommended that two thirds of their payments be released and that final payment be released subject to satisfactory performance

The Chair of the GSSC endorsed this recommendation.

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on the recommendation and they indicated that they supported the proposal.

Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club (rated Red for underperformance)

Since the report had been prepared, the organisation had submitted their monitoring returns and were now green rated. It was therefore recommended that the recommendation in respect of the club be set aside and payment be released.

The Chair of the GSSC endorsed the recommendations and stated that he was pleased to see the organisation back on track.

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on the recommendation and they indicated that they supported the proposal.

Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation.

It was noted that the THYSF had submitted returns and premises agreement and that Officers would be making recommendations to the Mayor and the Corporate Director Resources in line with the decision of the GDSC agreed on 6th June 2018, as detailed in the report. However Officers expressed concerns about their financial position and in particular outstanding income in relation to the Barcelona trip and other income from schools in light of the fact that Staff employed by Langdon Park School had now been made redundant and the charity was not financial viable.

The Chair of the GSSC endorsed the process in respect of THYSF

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on this issue and they indicated that they supported the approach. It was also questioned whether the grant funding could be reallocated to another project should the issues not be resolved. It was reported that Officers would explore this option and report back to the Committee at the September meeting.

Officers confirmed the recommendations in respect of rent subsidies and the Family Action group

The Chair of the GSSC endorsed this recommendation. The Mayor invited GDSC Members to comment on the recommendation and they indicated that they supported these proposals.

DECISION

That the Grants Determination Sub-Committee agrees the following decisions in respect of releasing MSG payments to the projects as set out below:

1. That in accordance with MSG procedures for amber related projects; the Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre receives two thirds grant payment. Once the period 10 monitoring return is submitted and subject to satisfactory performance the organisation be rated Green

and in accordance with the RAG performance rating, the remainder of grant payments be released accordingly.

2. That payment be released to the Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club following the submission of satisfactory monitoring information
3. That in light of the GDSC decision to award rent subsidies to the following organisations and whilst the Council engages with these organisation in terms of next steps and lease negotiations, that MSG payments continue to be paid subject to satisfactory performance.
 - Age UK East London
 - Bethnal Green Weightlifting Club
 - Black Women's Health and Family Support
 - Legal Advice Centre
 - Stifford Centre
 - Our Base
 - Tower Hamlets Community Transport
3. That in accordance with the decision made at the Grants Determination Sub-Committee on 6th June and in light of the progress made, payments in arrears to Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation will be released via delegated authority of the Corporate Director Resources after consultation with the Executive Mayor.
4. That in acknowledgement of Family Action's willingness to enter into an appropriate property agreement, MSG payments be released for this period subject to satisfactory performance.

6.4 PLACE Ltd Modular Temporary Accommodation GLA Sub-Grant Agreement

Chloe Lianos (Project Manager, PLACE Ltd) presented the report. The report sought the establishment of a not for profit Company to procure and own modular temporary accommodation for homeless families.

The Sub – Committee were reminded that in March 2018, the Mayor in Cabinet approved Tower Hamlets as the Lead Borough of the Pan-London Accommodation Collaborative Enterprise (PLACE) programme, and approved the incorporation of PLACE Ltd to deliver modular temporary accommodation on meanwhile sites.

The Mayor invited the Chair of GSSC to comment on the report. The Chair reported that the GSSC sought clarity about the funding and potential costs to the Council, the future management of sites, the quality of the accommodation, the House of Commons Report in respect of temporary accommodation. The GSSC were satisfied with the responses received and considered that it was a good initiative.

In response to these comments, Officers provided further reassurances highlighting the GLA's role in providing the funding for the project, and that steps would be taken to ensure the accommodation was of a good quality. It was also reported that whilst the Commons report supported the use of temporary accommodation, the report had highlighted a number of issues in respect of their suitability in the long term to cope with environmental challenges. Officers would provide a more detailed information to Members on the management responsibilities.

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on the report to Members and they indicated that they supported the proposals.

DECISION

1. That the award of grant funding of £11 million to PLACE Ltd through a Sub-Grant Agreement be authorised; drawing on the £11 million grant from the GLA awarded to Tower Hamlets, Lead Borough of the Pan-London Modular Temporary Accommodation on meanwhile sites programme.
2. That the Corporate Director Place be authorised to enter into a grant agreement and make decisions relating to any associated matter to paragraph 1 above.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

7.1 Emergency Funding Application – Phase 12, Betar Bangla

Reason for Urgency: the organisation has submitted an application for emergency funding due to an unforeseen increase in their rent. The organisation was only given a months' notice of this increase and not have additional funds to cover this increase. This is the second unforeseen increase the organisation has faced in the past 6 months, after an unforeseen increase in their transmission costs – they managed to crowd fund to cover the costs of this increase.

A decision was therefore required on recommendations within this report. The next meeting of the GDSC is on the 27th September which would be too late to seek a decision on this emergency.

The Sub-Committee were advised of the reasons for this application that Officers were recommending that they be awarded £10,000. They had requested £20,000.

It was also noted that Officers had previously helped the organisation prepare grant funding applications for crowd funding and ESF Community Employment Programme which had been successful. Officers also stressed the need for them to engage with the TH CVS to develop a viable business plan as detailed in the report.

The Mayor invited the Chair of GSSC to comment on the report. The Chair reported that the GSSC sought clarification of the reasons for the rent increase, whether Beta Bangla were looking for alternative accommodation given the rental increase. GSSC endorsed the recommendations.

The Mayor then invited GDSC Members to comment on the report. In responding to the questions, Officers clarified that the rent negotiations between, the Council, (who owned the building) and the landlord were still ongoing. However the rent increase had come into effect immediately. The Sub-Committee asked Officers to look into this matter. The Sub-Committee also noted that the organisation might experience difficulties in finding alternative accommodation that could accommodate their specific needs.

DECISION

1. That the officer recommendation to award emergency funding of £10,000 to Betar Bangla be approved based on the analysis set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report.

The meeting ended at 6.40 p.m.
Mayor John Biggs (Chair),
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee