


Grants Determination Sub-Committee	
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
Emergency Funding Application – Phase 10, Ashaadibi Education & Cultural Centre	

Originating Officer(s)	Steve Hill – Head of Benefits Services Mohammed Ahad – Community Programmes Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Community Plan Theme	One Tower Hamlets

By virtue of section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, Appendix 1 to this report is Exempt as it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of the applicant. The Appendix is exempt to the extent that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report seeks a decision with regards to the consideration of a grant to a Voluntary and Community Organisations in relation to the Council's Emergency Funding Scheme.
- 1.2 The report also seeks approval from the Sub-Committee on delegating decision making in respect of Emergency Funding and in line with the agreed criteria, to the Corporate Director, Resources, after consultation with the Executive Mayor.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee is recommended to:
 - i. Approve the officer recommendation not to award emergency funding based on the analysis set out in paragraph 5.2 of this report.
 - ii. That decision making for future applications relating to the Emergency Funding Programme be delegated to the Corporate Director, Resources, after consultation with the Executive Mayor, as detailed in 5.4 of this report.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 The decision is required in order to enable officers to advise the organisation making the application and where appropriate, to prepare Grant Offer Letters and enter into contractual arrangements with the organisation.
- 3.2 A decision is required with regards to delegating future decision making related to emergency funding applications so a coherent system can be put in place where the Corporate Director, Resources can make decisions after consultation with the Executive mayor.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Grants Determination Sub-Committee may wish to:
- i. Vary the recommended level of grant funding;
 - ii. Agree alternative arrangements for supporting some of the activities recommended for funding;
 - iii. Continue with the current arrangements of decisions being made by the Grants Determination Sub-Committee, although this is likely to delay rectifying an emergency an organisation is facing; or
 - iv. Where, due to urgency, to seek approval of the Grants Scrutiny Sub-Committee, to ask the Mayor to make an Individual Mayoral decision.

5. DETAILS OF REPORT

- 5.1 Historically, the Council had emergency funding arrangements in place enabling local voluntary and community organisations to apply for what was often referred to as life-and-limb support. The current Emergency Funding Scheme is that approved by the Commissioners at their meeting on the 27th September 2016.
- 5.2 The table below details the grant application that has been received in the Phase 10 period (September 2017) showing a requested total of £13,500 against the current available budget of £82,394.

No.	Organisation	Amount requested	Recommended Award	Reason for Recommendation
1	Ashaadibi Education & Cultural Centre	£13,500	£0.00	Does not meet eligibility requirements – not currently receiving LBTH funding. The criteria states that an organisation must <i>'already (be) in receipt of Council funding which may be at risk as a result of the Emergency'</i> .
	TOTAL	£13,500	£0.00	

- 5.3 The application was assessed to establish the extent to which it meets the agreed Emergency Funding criterion. The completed eligibility checklist is attached in Appendix 2.
- 5.4 As this Grants Funding programme deals with applications from organisations that require emergency funding there is a need to make decisions in a timely and responsive manner. It will be challenging for organisations to wait until the next available Grants Determination Sub-Committee for a decision. It is therefore recommended that decision making is delegated to the Corporate Director, Resources after consultation with the Executive Mayor. Decisions will be made in strict accordance to the eligibility criteria and demonstration that the project is consistent with local priorities as detailed in the Community and Strategic Plans and Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. Any decisions for funding as well as those not successful will be presented to the following Grants Determination Sub-Committee.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report as the amount recommended will be taken from the existing budget allocations.

7. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 7.1 The Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. This is referred to as the Council's best value duty. Best Value considerations have also been addressed in section 9 of the report.
- 7.2 Applying this duty to grants, the Council must operate a fair and open application procedure to process a request to obtain funding. Requests for grant funding should ordinarily be measured against a predetermined set of criteria and the criteria themselves must be fair and transparent. The grant agreement should include a clear monitoring process against defined parameters in order for the Council to demonstrate either: that delivery is in line with the application and, therefore, the grant achieved its purpose; or provide clear delineation where outcomes were not achieved and the reasons for such failure are apparent. Monitoring should therefore include measuring performance against the expected outcomes.
- 7.3 This report advises the Grants Determination Sub-Committee of an application for grants from a Voluntary and Community Organisation for the Council's Emergency Funding. This grant is discretionary and the application has been assessed on their individual merit against the agreed emergency funding criteria, approved at the Commissioners Decision Making Meeting on 27th September 2016. In this case, the recommendation is to refuse the application for the reasons as set out in the table at paragraph 5.2 of the report on the basis that it does not meet the eligibility criteria and which is a valid ground for refusal.
- 7.4 Under the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation, the Mayor has delegated decisions in relation to grants to the Grants Determination Sub-Committee. This was in compliance with the Council's Best Value Action Plan in response

to the Secretary of State's Directions. The Mayor can further delegate certain functions in respect of grants to officers but any delegation must be considered having regard to the Council's Best Value obligations as well as the need for transparency of decision making.

7.5 Of course, paragraph 6.3 of Rule 3 of the Executive Procedure Rules provides that the delegation to the Grants Determination Sub-Committee is subject to the Mayor's prerogative to make decisions on all matters relating to all his statutory powers. Rather than delegate to officers, the Mayor can make the decision on urgent emergency funding by way of an Individual Mayoral Decision.

7.6 Whether it is delegated to officers or the Mayor takes an individual decision, the matter must be reported to the next available Grants Determination Sub-Committee for their noting. This report must address why the matter was so urgent that it could not wait until the Grants Determination Sub-Committee for determination.

8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 The Council's support of the voluntary and community sector through grants contributes to the delivery of One Tower Hamlets priorities and objectives.

9. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Grants are considered through the Emergency Fund Programme to ensure organisations are not at risk of increased costs in future when an emergency isn't remedied and to safeguard any existing Council projects the organisation may be delivering.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

10.1 There are no immediate sustainable or environmental issues arising from this report.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 A number of different risks arise from any funding of external organisations. The key risks are:

- The funding may not be fully utilised i.e. allocations remain unspent and outcomes are not maximised
- The funding may be used for purposes that have not been agreed e.g. in the case of fraud
- The organisation may not in the event have the capacity to achieve the contracted outputs/outcomes

11.2 As part of the Programme Management arrangements, support will be provided to ensure that all risks are minimised.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are no immediate Crime and Disorder reduction implications.

13. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are no safeguarding risks or benefits from the proposals detailed in the report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Restricted
- Appendix 2 - Eligibility checklists and completed assessments

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

- Steve Hill – Head of Benefits and Grants Services
Telephone Number: 0207 364 7252
Steve.Hill@towerhamlets.gov.uk

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA CHECK LIST
Emergency Funding Grant Programme

Name of organisation:	Ashaadibi Education & Cultural Centre
Amount requested	£13,500
Date application received	22/09/2017
Date application assessed	26/07/2017
Assessment Officer	Mohammed Ahad

Criteria	Fully Met	Not Met	Comments
Applicant is a voluntary/community sector/ not-for-profit organisation	✓		Registered Charity number – 1154529
Have a base within Tower Hamlets or a demonstrable track record of successful service delivery within the borough	✓		Based on Cannon Street, E1
Have a bank or building society account in the organisation's name	✓		
Provides project activities that mainly benefit Tower Hamlets residents	✓		Detailed in application form
Is already in receipt of Council funding		✓	Not currently receiving Council funding.
Has a formal reserves policy		✓	More information required on level of reserves

Decision		Comments
Continue to full assessment of application		
Application not eligible for funding	✓	The organisation is not currently in receipt of Council funding so would therefore be ineligible for the Emergency Fund.
Further information required from organisation		