

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GRANTS PANEL

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 11 JUNE 2009

**COMMITTEE ROOM M71, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5
CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Marc Francis	(Lead Member, Housing and Development)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Rania Khan	(Lead Member, Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnerships)
Councillor Abdul Asad	(Lead Member, Children's Services)

Other Councillors Present:

Officers Present:

Dinar Hossain	– (Interim Head of Youth and Connexions Services, Children's Services)
Mario Leo	– (Head of Legal Services - Environment)
Brenda Doku	– (Community Resources Contracts & Grants Officer, Children's Services)
Zoe Folley	– (Committee Officer, Chief Executive's)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/10

The Democratic Services Officer, opened the meeting and requested nominations for the election of Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10. Councillor Ahmed nominated Councillor Francis for the position. There being no further nominations, it was:

Resolved

That Councillor M. Francis be elected Chair of the Grants Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10

COUNCILLOR M. FRANCIS IN THE CHAIR

2. ELECTION OF VICE- CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/10

The Chair requested nominations for the election of Vice-Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10. Councillor Ahmed nominated Councillor Asad for the position. There being no further nominations, it was:

Resolved

That Councillor A. Asad be elected Vice - Chair of the Grants Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2009/10.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor A. Ullah, Lead Member for Cleaner, Safer Greener.

Resolved

That the apologies for absence be noted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor O Ahmed declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.1 "Youth Service Summer Project Grants 2009" (GP 002/910). The declaration was made on the basis that the item contained a recommendations relating to the Colloden Bangladeshi Cultural Association and Councillor Ahmed was a member of the Association.

Councillor M Francis declared a **prejudicial interest** in Agenda item 8.1 "Youth Service Summer Project Grants 2009" (GP 002/910). The declaration was made on the basis that the report contained applications from the Old Ford Housing Association located in Bow East and Councillor Francis was one of the Ward Councillors for Bow East ward.

Councillor A Asad declared a **prejudicial interest** in Agenda item 8.1 "Youth Service Summer Project Grants 2009" (GP 002/910). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained applications from:

- Bijoy Youth Group
- Ensign Youth Group
- Martineau Estate

and Councillor Asad was a paid employee of the Bishops Challoner School, Shadwell which provided youth services to the projects.

Councillor R Khan declared a personal interest in Agenda item 8.1 "Youth Service Summer Project Grants 2009" (GP 002/910). The declaration of interest was made on the basis that the report contained applications from

- The Ocean Somali Community Association
- Streets of Growth

and Councillor Khan was a Trustee of the Kingsley Hall in Bow which the above applicants used.

Noted.

5. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The Chair **MOVED** and it was: -

Resolved:

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Grants Panel held on 19th March 2009 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

Matters Arising

In considering the minutes, Councillor Francis, (Chair) asked for further information on the following matters:

(a) MSG Commissioning – Adults Health and Wellbeing

(Older People Lunch Club Services) - Page 11 of minutes

- Trafford Friendship Club - further information on the number of participants;
- East London Chinese Community Centre, Community of Refugees from Vietnam (East London) – (unsuccessful due to duplication) - clarification of appeals process.

(b) MSG Commissioning Development and Renewal – Page 9

In relation to the TH Community Transport Scheme/Volunteer Centre TH: - (That they be awarded £20,000/10,000 respectively for a 3 month period only, Resolution 2, Page 9), Councillor Francis questioned when this funding would draw to a close? What provision was there for them now?

In response, it was agreed that the requests for information raised by Councillor Francis would be put to the relevant Services for a response and that this be reported back to Councillor Francis.

ACTION: Z Folley, Committee Officer, Chief Executives.

In discussing the applications considered at the meeting, Members raised a number of concerns as follows:

Councillor Asad commented that:

- he had received queries from long standing organisations whose applications were unsuccessful;
- A number of organisations missed out on funding/were unable to apply due to the new application process. For example, two groups were excluded in his ward;

- If small groups were experiencing problems in applying because of the new arrangements, this needed to be addressed. Considered that they should be offered support to ensure they could apply in future;
- That the Grants Panel should receive a detailed report on the MSG Commissioning process covering, how it worked, the appeals process. Considered that the appeals process was key.

Councillor Kahn considered that:

- Some of the smaller groups, (for example the Somali Women's Groups) did not have access to the technology needed to apply on line and, because of this, was at a disadvantage;
- Stressed the need to focus on the lessons learnt from the process and that the problem of groups being excluded due to the new process be addressed.

B Doku (Community Resources Contracts & Grants Officer, Children's Service) undertook to take these issues back to the Directorates concerned.

Accordingly it was **Agreed** that a detailed report would be submitted to Members on the new Mainstream Grant Commissioning Process covering

- Review of process; - feedback on operation of process to date;
- how the small and medium size community/voluntary organisations are involved in the process;
- Information on the organisations either left out or applied but were not considered because of the newly introduced online system.

Councillor Francis (Chair) asked about the Grants Appeals Process and that the process be reported back to him.

Ms Doku reported that under the new Commissioning model, there was no longer an appeals process for MSG decisions.

6. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS

The Committee Officer advised that the Assistant Chief Executive had received no requests for deputations or petitions in respect of the business contained in the agenda.

7. GRANTS PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE (GP 001/910)

The Chair introduced the report which set out the terms of reference; membership; quorum and future dates of the Grants Panel for the Municipal Year 2009/10 and then **MOVED** the recommendation set out in the report and it was:- .

Resolved:

That the Terms of Reference, membership and quorum for the Grants Panel as set out in Appendix A of the report (GP/001/910) be noted.

8. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 Youth Service Summer Project Grants 2009 (GP 002/910)

Dinar Hossain (Interim Head of Youth and Connexions Services) presented the report and summarised the salient points contained therein. The report asked the Grants Panel to consider and approve applications in respect of Summer Grants Projects for 2009.

The Grants Panel decided that the applications would be considered in order of LAP blocks. A discussion then followed where the following questions/points were raised:

Councillor Asad queried the proposal to spend £15,000 on the publicity for Summer Projects. He considered that this budget should be reduced. And that a budget of £10,000 would be more appropriate. The balance of £5,000 should be added to that for individual projects and, in the first instance, reserved for applications from smaller organisations.

Accordingly, Councillor Asad proposed additional recommendations to that set out in the report for the consideration of the Grants Panel as follows:

“That the publicity budget for the Summer Grants Projects Scheme be revised downwards from £15,000 to £10,000;

That Officers in consultation with the Chair and the Vice - Chair be authorised to determine funding priorities for the publicity budget of £10,000, and to facilitate this, provide details of the publicity programme; and

That the sum left unallocated as a result of resolution 5. above (£5,000) be added to the budget for individual Summer Projects. That Officers in consultation with the Chair and the Vice - Chair be authorised to allocate this funding and that in the first instance it be awarded to small organisations, for summer activities, subject to compliance with the funding criteria for the scheme”.

In relation to the Boundary Community School Summer Project (Page 39 – 40 of the agenda) officers clarified that their application was unsuccessful due to incomplete details. The application only included two days of activity when the minimum number of days for funding was 4.

In reply Councillor Asad commented

- that the school provided a range of leisure activities for their pupils;

- given the lack of leisure provision/ problems with overcrowding in the area, their project should be supported.

Councillor Asad therefore requested that their application be reviewed subject to the provision of complete programme details.

Accordingly Councillor Asad proposed an additional recommendation to that set out in the report for the consideration of the Grants Panel as follows:

“That the decision in respect of the Boundary Community School for their BSC Summer Project, be deferred subject to further information being sought and obtained (to clarify number of days of activity - complete programme details). That, subject to the receipt of this information, the final decision regarding the application be deferred to officers in consultation with the Chair and Vice – Chair for determination”.

Councillor Asad left the room for the consideration of the applications from LAP 4 based projects (Time being 7:10pm).

Councillor Asad rejoined the meeting at 7:15pm.

Councillor Francis (Chair) vacated the Chair and left the room for the consideration of the applications from LAP 5 based projects. (7:15pm). Councillor Asad (Vice –Chair) took the Chair for this item.

Councillor A. Asad in the Chair

Councillor Francis rejoined the meeting at 7:20pm

Councillor M. Francis in the Chair

The Grants Panel also requested that, in future, when key details are missing from applications, the applicant be contacted to gain this information before submission to the Grants Panel.

Councillor Francis (Chair) then **Moved** the recommendations as contained in the report taking account of the amendments proposed by Councillor Asad and it was:-

Resolved:

- (1) That the proposals for the allocation of grant aid for Summer Project Grants in 2009 as summarised in Appendix A of the report (GP 002/910) for LAP areas 1 - 3, 6 –8 and the Boroughwide projects, with detailed Assessments in Appendix B, be agreed subject to the following:
 - That the decision in respect of the Boundary Community School for their BSC Summer Project, be deferred subject to further information being sought and obtained (to clarify number of days of activity -

complete programme details). That, subject to the receipt of this information, the final decision regarding the application be deferred to officers in consultation with the Chair and Vice – Chair for determination.

Councillor A Asad left the room for the consideration of the applications from LAP 4 based projects (Time being 7:10pm)

- (2) That the proposals for the allocation of grant aid for Summer Project Grants in 2009 as summarised in Appendix A of the report (GP 002/910) for LAP 4 area, with detailed Assessments in Appendix B, be agreed;

Councillor A Asad rejoined the meeting at 7:15pm.

Councillor Francis (Chair) vacated the Chair and left the room for the consideration of the applications from LAP 5 based projects. (7:15pm). Councillor Asad (Vice –Chair) took the Chair for this item.

Councillor A. Asad in the Chair

- (3) That the proposals for the allocation of grant aid for Summer Project Grants in 2009 as summarised in Appendix A of the report (GP 002/910) for LAP 5 area, with detailed Assessments in Appendix B, be agreed.

Councillor Francis rejoined the meeting at 7:20pm

Councillor M. Francis in the Chair

- (4). That the publicity budget for the Summer Grants Projects Scheme be revised downwards from £15,000 to £10,000;
- (5). That Officers in consultation with the Chair and Vice – Chair be authorised to determined funding priorities for the publicity budget of £10,000; and to facilitate this, provide details of the publicity programme; and
- (6). That the sum left unallocated as a result of resolution 5. above, totalling £5,000, be added to the budget for individual Summer Projects. That Officers in consultation with the Chair and the Vice - Chair be authorised to allocate this funding and that it be awarded in the first instance to small organisations, for summer activities, subject to compliance with the funding criteria for the scheme.

9. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

There was no other urgent unrestricted business to be considered under this item.

The meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Abdal Ullah
Grants Panel