

<p align="center"><b>Grants Determination Sub Committee</b> 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018</p>	
<p><b>Report of:</b> Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources</p>	<p>Unrestricted</p>
<p align="center"><b>LBTH Innovation Fund and ESF Community Employment Programme Updates</b></p>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Steve Hill - Head of Benefits Services
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	All

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to update the Grants Determination Sub-Committee on grants that have been awarded through two funding streams – the LBTH Innovation Fund (match funding for organisations crowdfunding through Spacehive) and the European Social Fund (ESF) Community Employment Programme which is co-financed through the European Union and administered by London Councils.

With regards to the LBTH Innovation Fund, to date, 9 projects have been funded totalling £49,421. The first of three rounds have also been launched as part of the ESF Community Employment Programme where grants totalling £302,088 were awarded to 17 organisations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Grants Determination Sub Committee are recommended to:

- i) Note the organisations and projects funded through the LBTH Innovation Fund and the ESF Community Grants Programme as detailed in 3.3 and 3.7.

### **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 As part of the LBTH Innovation Fund and the ESF Community Grants Programme being delegated to officers, there is a requirement to update the Grants Determination Sub-Committee of grants that have been awarded to local Voluntary and Community organisations.

### **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 As this is a noting report, the Grants Determination Sub-Committee may request additional information on projects and organisations awarded funding.

### **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

#### **LBTH Innovation Fund**

- 3.1 An action within the Council's VCS Strategy was to identify potential external funding sources to expand and diversify the resource base of local VCS organisations. Crowdfunding was identified as a method of doing this. In response, the Council launched a pilot programme for 12 months through a contract with Spacehive who are working with the Greater London Authority and a number of other local Councils.
- 3.2 As part of the crowdfunding initiative it was proposed that match-funding would be made available the Innovation Fund has been identified as a source for match-funding eligible projects. This is a one-off fund with a budget of £120k. As a result organisations that are crowdfunding through the '*Our Tower Hamlets*' crowdfunding page of the Spacehive portal have an opportunity to pitch for up to £10,000 (or a maximum of 50% of an organisations crowdfunding target). In order to demonstrate that projects have the support of the local community, organisations are expected to crowdfund the first 15% of their total before LBTH can assess applications for the Innovation Fund.
- 3.3 The crowdfunding initiative was launched in July 2017 with the Innovation Fund being made available in August 2017. To date 14 organisations have pitched for the Innovation Fund with pledges being made to 9 of these. Total project costs for these 9 organisations equates to £285,919 with the Innovation Fund contributing to £49,421 and the remaining £236,498 being crowdfunded through other sources.

No.	Organisation	Project Name	Date of pledge	Total project costs	Innovation Fund contribution	Projects description
1	Public Projects LTD	Pop Up Compost	01/09/2017	£4,508	£1,142	Setting up of a pop-up compost. This included expanding existing operations within the larger estate and raising awareness as widely as possible using local volunteers from the community and local students.
2	Factory East Community Project	Boxing for the Community in London	22/09/2017	8,813	£2,283	The organisation were crowdfunding to replace and improve equipment in their gym as a method of engaging local young people in particular who were at risk of ASB. Funds were also used for boxing kits for children and also Level 1 England Boxing Coaching Courses for 4 trainers.
3	Transform UK	Transform Shoreditch: Café and Arts Space	22/09/2017	£150,792	£10,000	The project includes transforming a space provided by Shoreditch Tab church within their brand new building. This includes fitting out a new coffee shop and community cafe, a recording studio, new arts and performance space and a new media training suite.
4	Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust	Bethnal Green Memorial Projection	14/02/2018	£11,147	£2,889	To commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the Bethnal Green Tube disaster photographs of victims were projected onto the exterior and interior faces of the teak stairway for the period of 1 week from Friday 2nd March - Friday 9th March.
5	Rejuvenate UK CIC	East London Makerspace II	01/03/2018	£55,069	£10,000	The project included changing an unused empty space into East London Makerspace. A creative hub where the local community would be trained in the production & selling of high quality ECO products made from waste.
6	Toynbee Hall	Make Caves in Mile End Park	01/03/2018	£16,332	£8,080	Local students built an indoor cave at Mile End Urban Adventure Base. The cave was designed and constructed entirely by the young people themselves, with expertise provided by local charity Build Up Foundation. Students came together from three different secondary schools to build the cave. After the project, students introduced the cave to local children on an activities day which they led for 360 year 6 students transitioning to secondary school.

7	Betar Bangla	Save Betar Bangla Radio Station!	03/04/2018	£19,161	£9,926	The organisations crowdfunded to tackle an emergency in that their transmission costs had trebled with very little notice.
8	Hep refugees	Choose Love Mural E1	06/06/2018	£4,930	£1,263	Funds were used to create a giant Choose Love mural on Hanbury street. A powerful and positive message for Refugee Week located in the heart of Tower Hamlets.
9	Off the Wall Players CIC	Inside Out - Aldgate Women's Oral History	30/05/2018	£15,167	£3,838	Project included the narratives of women from Aldgate which was collected through a series of community workshops. This culminated in an outdoor performance which coincided with the June 2018 opening of Aldgate Square
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£285,919</b>	<b>£49,421</b>	

## ESF Community Grants Programme

- 3.4 At the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 Commissioners Decision Making Meeting in Public, Commissioners agreed to match-fund the European Social Fund (ESF) Community Employment Grants Programme 2016-19. The council's financial commitment is £225,000 per year over 3 years. This funding attracts an equal contribution from the European Social Fund thus making a total scheme budget of £1.350m over the 3-year programme period. It is intended that there will be 3 bidding rounds: one during each year of the programme – Round 1 was launched in December 2017. Voluntary and Community organisations are able to apply for grants of up to £20,000 during each bidding round.
- 3.5 London's ESF Programme is administered by the Greater London Authority (GLA). However, the day-to-day management and administration of the programme will be undertaken by London Councils. Due to delays in finalising the contractual agreement between the GLA and London Councils, the programme was launched in December 2017 and will run until 2020.
- 3.6 The programme falls within Investment Priority 1.4 to address the root causes of poverty which create barriers to work so more people move closer to or into employment.
- 3.7 In Round 1 of the programme, 28 applications were received from local VCS organisations. Applications were assessed by LBTH and London Council's staff. A panel comprising of LBTH officers and colleagues from London Councils were involved with moderating applications with a final report being devised with recommendations for the decision making panel – comprising of senior officers from LBTH, London Council's and the GLA. As a result, 17 organisations were successful in securing funding in Round 1, details of these organisations and amounts awarded are detailed below:

Organisation	Grant Amount
Betar Bangla Ltd	£18,932
Al Isharah	£20,000
City Steps Guided Tours	£12,500
Newark Youth London	£19,703
Weavers Community Forum	£20,000
Bongobir Osmany Trust	£20,000
The Rooted Forum	£20,000
Wapping Bangladesh Association	£14,874
Thames Bengali Association	£12,382
Somali Parent & Children Play Association	£12,316
Olive Tree Education	£19,350
Boundary Community School	£19,952
Tower Hamlets Parents Centre	£19,629
Sylhet Bawl Shangith Ghosti	£12,450
Dorset Community Association	£20,000
WISE Youth Trust	£20,000
Cressy IT Solution CIC	£20,000
<b>Total Round 1 Grant Value</b>	<b>£302,088</b>

#### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 4.1 This report aims to provide an update on the LBTH Innovation Fund and the European Social Fund (ESF). Overall the report also allows opportunity for greater transparency and scrutiny around the Councils grant processes.
- 4.2 The Innovation Fund to date has incurred committed expenditure of £49,421, against a total provision of £120,000. This provides a remaining balance of £70,579 for any future potential projects meeting the required criteria.
- 4.3 Organisations that are a part of the ESF programme achieved a total spend of £302,088. As fifty percent of this cost will be met by the Council the total liability is £151,044 against a current budget provision of £225,000, providing a remaining provision of £73,956.

#### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1 This report is a noting report and is in line with the previous approving report. There are no further legal issues.
- 5.2 Any equalities issues are dealt with in line with the overall equalities assessments undertaken as part of the scheme and as the scheme progresses.

#### **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1. The contribution of VCS organisations helping to deliver One Tower Hamlets objectives and priorities are explicitly recognised and articulated within the Council's agreed Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy.
- 6.2 VCS Organisations play a key role in delivering services that address inequality, improve cohesion and increase community leadership. These services are real examples of 'One Tower Hamlets' in practice.

#### **7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The level of awards to organisations was determined by the quality of their individual applications as well as the overall demand for the funds available.
- 7.2 Additionally, the application appraisal process took into consideration the proposed levels of outputs and outcomes to be delivered as well as the organisation's track record and the bid's overall value for money rating.
- 7.3 There will be ongoing performance management of the approved portfolio of projects to ensure that interventions meet the required standards; that the evidencing of project achievements and expenditure are accurately recorded and reported. For the ESF Community Grants Programme, this will be administered by London Council's.

## **8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 8.1 All programme beneficiaries be they individuals or local organisations will be encouraged to consider taking appropriate steps to minimise negative impact on the environment when taking up the opportunities offered within the programme and on an ongoing basis.

## **9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 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
- 9.2 As part of the ongoing programme management arrangements, support, advice and guidance will be made available projects to ensure that all performance and other risks are minimised.

## **10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The activities, services and outcomes that are being targeted through these grant programmes support the objectives of reducing crime and disorder.
- 10.2 Throughout the programmes as a whole however, those people involved in, or at risk of involvement in the criminal justice system will be targeted for support.

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 As part of the initial application process organisations were required to provide details of their safeguarding policy, if appropriate. The Grant Agreements for both funding streams includes requirements in relation to safeguarding.
- 11.2 Organisations providing services to children or vulnerable adults and employing staff or volunteers in a position whose duties include caring for, training, supervising or being responsible in some way for them, are required to fully comply with all necessary safeguarding requirements.

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## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report:**

- None

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

- None

### **Officer contact details for documents:**

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