


<p align="center">Cabinet Decision – Grants Determination Sub-Committee</p> <p align="center">3rd July 2019</p>	 <p align="center">TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p align="center">Update on Tackling Poverty Innovation Fund grants</p>	

Originating Officer(s)	Dominic Hinde, Tackling Poverty Team Leader
Wards affected	Borough-wide
Key Decision?	No
Community Plan Theme	All themes

Executive Summary

This report is to update the Grants Determination Sub-Committee on grants which have been awarded through the Tackling Poverty Innovation Fund.

Grants totalling £200,000 have been awarded to 17 organisations, with projects relating to food poverty, money management, employment, digital inclusion and overall poverty issues.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the organisations and projects funded through the Innovation Fund as detailed in Appendix A

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1. As the grant decisions were taken independently of the Council by East End Community Foundation, and were under £20,000 each this report is to inform Members of the Committee of which organisations and projects have been funded, and the funding allocations.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

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

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 As part of the Mayor's Tackling Poverty Programme, it was agreed that the London Borough of Tower Hamlets would fund a £200,000 programme of grants aimed at delivering new and innovative initiatives to tackle poverty in the borough. This was at the request of a number of organisations who felt that they had good ideas to tackle poverty, but were unable to access funding to test new ideas. The priorities for the fund were listed as projects to tackle pensioner poverty, unemployment, and families suffering from in-work poverty (particularly those receiving housing benefit).
- 3.2 The fund is administered by East End Community Foundation (EECF), with all funding decisions and monitoring responsibilities removed from Council control. Each grant is below £20,000, the limit at which the Committee agreed it did not need oversight of grant approvals.
- 3.3 £1.1 million of grant applications were originally received and scored by EECF. Due to the volume, a number of projects were invited to submit a more detailed proposal, with others being rejected at this first stage, due to either lacking innovation or not clearly showing how the priorities of the fund would be met. Three micro grants of 500 were agreed at this time.
- 3.4 Following a second round of scoring, 14 grants were awarded, ranging from £2,290 to £20,000. Of the 14 large grants, two were digital inclusion projects, three employment projects, four food poverty projects, three money management projects and two projects tackling overall poverty issues.
- 3.5 Below shows the organisations funded and to what value. A full description of each project is provided in Appendix A.

Organisation	Theme	Approved Grant
Age UK East London	Digital Inclusion	19,974
Bromley by Bow Centre	Food Poverty	19,969
Elizabeth Selby Infant School	Micro Grant	500
Island Advice Centre	Money Management	13,500
Mudchute Association	Food Poverty	20,000

Oaklands School: Boys Project	Employment	11,000
Oaklands School: Roof Garden	Food Poverty	7,967
Osmani Trust	Overall Poverty Issues	16,480
School Home Support	Money Management	16,830
Shapla Primary School	Overall Poverty Issues	8,150
SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets	Employment	15,000
Stitches in Time	Employment	14,790
St Peter's Community Wellbeing Projects	Micro Grant	500
Tower Hamlets Homes	Money Management	20,000
Toyhouse Libraries	Food Poverty	12,550
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Digital Inclusion	2,290
Women's Environmental Network	Micro Grant	500
Total		200,000

- 3.6 The projects have commenced and will run for a period of nine months (or six months for micro-grants), with outcomes expected in the first quarter of 2020. Monitoring an evaluation will be undertaken by EECF and reported back to the Council.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. Grant guidelines outlined a requirement for all projects to show that they are aware of equal opportunities and demonstrate commitment to them. Organisations applying for grants were required to submit an Equal Opportunities Statement with their application.
- 4.2. Particular emphasis was given to grants which target specifically deprived cohorts, such as older people, those out of work, and those on benefits. Funded projects include improving older people's digital skills, employment projects for BME women, and a food growing project for SEN children.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. No other statutory implications.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1. This report is proposing to fund a number of grant projects tackling poverty to the value of £0.200m. The grants will be funded from revenue budget.
- 6.2. There are no financial implications emanating from this report. The grants were issued to the 17 organisations in 2018/19 and formed part of the previous year's expenditure.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 There are no particular legal implications arising from this report as the grant decisions have been made in line with the approval previously granted
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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Appendix A: LBTH Tackling Poverty Fund Grant Awards

Background Documents

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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