

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 5.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 3 JULY 2019**

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL MULBERRY PLACE**

**Members Present:**

Mayor John Biggs (Chair)	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Sirajul Islam (Member)	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Substitute for Councillor Asma Begum)	(Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit)

**Other Councillors Present:**

Councillor Tarik Khan

**Officers Present:**

Dr Somen Banerjee	(Director of Public Health)
Fiona Crehan	(High Streets and Town Centres Manager, Place)
David Freeman	(Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Manager)
Ellie Kershaw	(Tackling Poverty Programme Manager, Benefits)
Abdul Khan	(Service Manager - Energy & Sustainability)
Robert Mee	(Interim Voluntary & Community Sector Team Manager)
Katy McGinity	Strategy and Policy Officer
Michael Ritchie	(Place Shaping Team Leader, Strategic Planning)
Sarah Williams	(Legal Services, Governance)
Anna Zucchelli	(Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place)
Zoe Folley	(Committee Officer, Governance)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Asma Begum
- Councillor Candida Ronald

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE SUB - COMMITTEE FOR 2019/20**

It was proposed by Mayor John Biggs and seconded by Councillor Sabina Akhtar and **RESOLVED**

That Councillor Candida Ronald be elected Chair of the Grants Determination Sub - Committee for the Municipal Year 2019/2020

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

No declarations of interest were reported.

**4. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2019 were presented and approved as a correct record of proceedings.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

There were no public submissions

**6. 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.

**7. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**7.1 GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, QUORUM, MEMBERSHIP AND DATES OF MEETINGS**

The Sub- Committee considered the report setting out its Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2019/20

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2019/20 be noted as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 of the report

## **7.2 Formal Offer of Historic Buildings Grant to St. Mary and Holy Trinity Church**

Anna Zucchelli (Heritage at Risk Projects Officer) and Michael Ritchie (Place Shaping Team Leader, Strategic Planning), presented the report.

The report sought authorisation to issue a formal grant offer of £30,000 to the above church for the second and final phase of repair works. The Council were now in position to offer the formal grant following the receipt of the necessary documents and it was expected that following the repair work, the church should be removed from the Historic England Heritage at risk register. The Sub – Committee noted details of the next stage of the project and the decision making processes, allowing Officers to release the payment (as detailed in the report)

In response to questions, the Sub – Committee noted the merits of repairing the building given its community value and also the reasons for the completion of the works in two phases in accordance with National Lottery Heritage Funding recommendations

Members also commented on the need to improve the setting of the church and noted the longer term plans for this.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Corporate Director Place be authorised to issue a formal offer of grant to St Mary's and Holy Trinity, Bow to a maximum of £30,000 as a contribution to vital repair works to improve surface drainage, repair rainwater goods and remove pollutant encrustation to the external stonework of the aisles and chancel.
2. That the Corporate Director Place be authorised to enter into the grant agreement and any such other agreements required to affect the grant and the use of the grant as detailed in paragraph 1 in the report.

## **7.3 Payment of Historic Buildings Grant to Oxford House in Bethnal Green**

Anna Zucchelli (Heritage at Risk Projects Officer) and Michael Ritchie (Place Shaping Team Leader, Strategic Planning), presented the report. The report sought authorisation to award a Grant of £95,902.00 to Oxford House, for vital repair works.

It was noted that following the recent completion all of the works, the building should soon be in a position to open.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the payment of grant of £95,902 to Oxford House in Bethnal Green as a contribution towards vital repair works to the roof and high level windows be approved.

#### **7.4 Roman Road West Regeneration Programme - Shopfront Improvement project grant Approval**

Fiona Crehan (High Streets & Town Centres Manager) presented the report.

The report sought the approval for a grant scheme to fund shop front improvements in Roman Road West town centre.

Members were advised of the key features of the plans, specifically, the plans to replace the shutters with good quality internal shutters to help prevent graffiti. The Sub - Committee also noted details of the lease arrangements as set out in the report; the target for allocating the funding and the plans in place to commence works once planning permission had been granted.

The repair works should improve the overall appearance of the shop fronts and uplift the area.

In response the Sub – Committee and Councillor Tarik Khan asked questions about the consultation with the leaseholders of the shops. In response, Officers reported on the progress that had been made in relation to this and the next stage in this process. It was noted that the businesses may choose to opt out of providing a contribution, which would mean that work may have to be scaled back. The Sub – Committee were mindful of this and stressed the need to consult with the leaseholders on the work. They also sought assurances regarding the quality of the new ‘unbreakable’ glass windows for the internal shutters.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the shopfront improvement grant scheme for Roman Road West town centre be approved.
2. To note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

#### **7.5 Addition to the 2015 grant conditions for the creation of early learning for two year olds (EL2) places**

Ronke Martins-Taylor (Divisional Director Youth and Commissioning) and Pauline Hoare (Head of the Intergrated Early Years Service) presented this item. This report proposed an addition to the grant conditions for the creation of early learning for two year olds (EL2).

The Sub – Committee were advised of the need to enter into new agreements to provide additional places for two year olds. In view of this permission was sought to amend the 2015 grant criteria to require that the schools produce a robust business plan.

In response the Sub – Committee and Councillor Tarik Khan, sought assurances regarding the impact of the changes on the availability of places to low income families. It was felt important to ensure there were sufficient safeguards to protect the poorest pupils. In response, Officers stressed the need for schools to develop robust plans setting out the implications of providing the additional places to facilitate monitoring.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the additional proposal be approved to require schools and potential providers to develop robust business planning as part of the capital application process for the creation of early learning for two-year olds (EL2) places.

**7.6 Update on Tackling Poverty Innovation Fund grants**

Ellie Kershaw (Tackling Poverty Programme Manager, Growth and Economic Development) presented this report.

This report provided an update on grants which have been awarded through the Tackling Poverty Innovation Fund.

In response to questions, the Sub - Committee noted details of the scrutiny and monitoring arrangements.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**7.7 Corporate Voluntary Sector Grants Programme (Infrastructure and Capacity Building) Approval of Grants**

David Freeman (Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Manager) presented the report. This report presents the assessment of applications received and makes recommendations for allocating grants to VCS organisations under this theme for the period 1 October 2019 to 30 September 2022. Details of the application received and the outcome of the assessments were set out in the report.

The report proposed that the grant funding should be awarded to the TH Council for Voluntary Services given they achieved the highest score. THCVS and its consortium partners, Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets and Tower Hamlets Community Transport, had applied for the full amount available for this grants programme. As the council has adopted the principle of awarding organisations the full amount applied for if their applications are successful, there was no budget available to fund the remaining applications to this grants programme.

In response to the report, Members asked questions about the number of applications received and the efforts to reach out to smaller groups to help them apply for the funding. It was considered important to engage with a wide range of community groups particularly smaller groups.

In response, it was confirmed that the Council had worked hard to engage local groups, including many new groups, both as part of this funding stream and the small grants scheme, to help them apply for funding, through for example advertising the schemes to a wider range of groups, and working with the CVS.

With the permission of the Chair, a representative from the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service, advised of their future plans in respect of reaching out and supporting a variety of groups with other providers, particularly voluntary organisations.

The Sub – Committee also discussed the monitoring arrangements.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That a grant to Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service be awarded of up to £260,000 per annum for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 toward the cost of providing infrastructure support and capacity building activities for the voluntary and community sector in Tower Hamlets as set out in Appendix B to the report;
2. Decline the four applications listed in Appendix B to this report for the reasons stated, and
3. Note the specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4 of the report.

**7.8 MSG Project Performance Report - Extension Period 02 (January to March 2019)**

Robert Mee (Interim Voluntary & Community Sector Team Manager) presented the report. The report covered red and amber performance rated projects for the extension period January to March 2019. It also provided details of the significant variation requested for one of the three red rated projects. The Committee were asked to agree this and note the performance information.

In response to questions, Officers provided a progress report in respect of the other two rate rated projects. (Our Base – One Stop Youth Service Shadwell Basin Outdoor Activity Centre – Girls Can Adventure). It was confirmed that Officers were working with the groups to resolve the outstanding issues.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Note the performance of the Mainstream Grants (MSG) programme as set out in 3.3 – 3.7 and the premises update 3.8 – 3.10 of the report.
2. Agree the significant variation to the DeafPLUS project to revised the output targets. This will move the performance rating to Green and will enable approval of the outstanding payment.

**7.9 Mainstream Grants (MSG) 2015-18 Outcomes**

Robert Mee (Interim Voluntary & Community Sector Team Manager) presented the MSG outcomes report. He outlined some of the activities to publicise the groups achievements and played a short video highlighting a number of success stories.

In response to questions, Officers outlined some of the differences between the Local Community Fund and Mainstream Grants. The LCF comprised a number of broader themes and sought to help groups support these themes, such as combating isolation, rather than supporting specific services. Officers also explained the Council's approach to supporting groups apply for funding and helping them become more sustainable.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Note the planned actions to promote the outcomes and achievements from the Mainstream Grants (MSG) activity including the MSG Outcomes report.

**7.10 A12 Acoustic Barrier - Part of the A12 Green Mile Initiative**

Abdul Khan, (Service Manager for Energy & Sustainability) presented the item. The report concerned an application for the design and installation of a new acoustic barrier for a section of the A12 with the ability to mitigate noise and air pollution.

It was noted that since the last meeting of the Sub – Committee in September 2018, (where the project was previously considered), further research had been carried out to demonstrate the barrier's effectiveness to help mitigate air pollution.

This was a pilot project, which along with other greening initiatives for the nearby area (including the pocket park) should improve the quality of the environment.

In response to questions Members noted details of the total costs of the project to be funded from various sources. With the permission of the Chair, a representative from Poplar HARCA addressed the Sub – Committee about the testing carried out, (that was at an advanced stage) and the quality of the

materials and the safeguards to ensure the barrier was effectively maintained, through for example the selection of appropriate materials.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Approve to provide £100,000 to Poplar HARCA as a grant to deliver the A12 acoustic barrier project.

**7.11 Aberfeldy WellOne: Approval of the Allocation of S106 totalling £500K**

**Special Circumstances Justifying Urgent Consideration**

It has not been possible to provide 5 clear days' notice of this report due to reasons set out in the legal comments (see section 5.5). Specifically, 'at the current time the Council has not completed the process of identifying the appropriate developments from which the relevant S.106 monies may be drawn. However, due to the reporting process timescales the request for the delegation to enter into the appropriate grant agreement is proceeding at this point. The committee should note that this decision cannot be made until such time as the use of s.106 funds has been approved in accordance with recommendation 2 in the report.

Nevertheless it is recommended that the report be considered because the next meeting of the Grants Determination Sub-Committee is in September and delaying until then would have significant impact on the progression of a major programme

Dr Somen Banerjee, (Public Health) presented the report relating to the release of up to £500k of section 106 to Poplar Harca to fit out a community café as part of the integrated health and wellbeing facility developed within Aberfeldy Village.

Members asked questions about the community benefits of the project. Members also asked questions about the employment opportunities and possibility of training local people to run the project. It was also felt important that the project should be community driven.

With the permission of the Chair, a representative from Poplar HARCA addressed the Sub – Committee. He provided assurances regarding: their investment plans, engagement with the local GP's and their training programme.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Approve the grant funding of £500k to Poplar Harca to fit out the community space to complement the integrated health and wellbeing facility, Aberfeldy WellOne subject to the approval of the Corporate



Director Resources that the S.106 funds can be released for this purpose in accordance with the relevant S.106 agreement(s).

2. Authorise the Corporate Director Health Adults and Community to enter into all agreements and other documents to give effect to the grant following the approval that the relevant S.106 funds can be released in line with resolution 1.

**8. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

There were no items.

The meeting ended at 7.30 p.m.

Chair, Mayor John Biggs  
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee