

<b>Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee</b>  11 September 2019	
<b>Report of:</b> Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, policy and performance	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>Local Community Fund</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>John Biggs, the Mayor Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	David Freeman, VCS Strategy Manager
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	Impact on Wards
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	<b>All</b>

### **Executive Summary**

This report sets out proposals for implementing the mitigating actions identified in the equality analysis of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) funding programme, the Local Community Fund agreed at Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 including the extension of mainstream grants (MSG) funding to a number of services from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020.

The report also provides details of the other MSG transitional arrangements agreed in principle at Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019.

## **Recommendations:**

The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree to extend funding to the organisations listed at Appendix A at the current level of funding under the council's mainstream grants programme (MSG) for a period of six months from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020, subject to the same funding conditions as those in place for MSG funding and also subject to continued satisfactory performance.
2. To note the progress relating to the transitional arrangements and equality mitigation actions for services whose current MSG funding comes to an end on 30 September 2019 as set out in appendix B.

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31<sup>st</sup> July to a programme of funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, a number of transitional arrangements for organisations currently funded under MSG that will not be funded under the LCF and an action plan to mitigate the impact of the change in funding from MSG to LCF on people with protected equalities characteristics.
- 1.2 This report seeks the Sub- Committee's agreement to the implementation of one of the mitigating actions, the extension of current funding for organisations currently funded to provide community language services and organisations currently funded to provide lunch club services which are not funded through the LCF.

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The council could decide to close the current MSG programme without implementing any action to mitigate the impact of closure on people with protected equality characteristics. However, this option could leave the council in breach of its duties under the Equality Act 2010 for failing to implement mitigation for negative impact on people with protected equality characteristics identified in the Equality Analysis relating to the change from MSG to the LCF in funding services provided by VCS organisations.

### **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31st July to a programme of funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1st October 2019, a number of transitional arrangements for organisations currently funded under MSG that will not be funded under the LCF and an action plan to mitigate the impact of the change in funding from MSG to LCF on people with protected equalities characteristics.
- 3.2 Following further consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of matters raised through the call in of these decisions, on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the Mayor confirmed his decisions made on 31<sup>st</sup> July and asked officers to provide details of equalities mitigation funding for organisations whose MSG funding is due to end on 30 September 2019. This report asks the Sub-Committee to agree these funding proposals.
- 3.3 Two of the actions agreed to mitigate the impact of the change from the MSG programme to the LCF programme on people with protected equality characteristics were:
  - a. Seek approval at the meeting of the GDCSC on 11 September for the extension of current MSG funding to 31 March 2020 for services in the community language strand of the MSG programme;
  - b. Seek approval at the meeting of the GDCSC on 11 September for the extension of current MSG funding to 31 March 2020 for the community based services for older people in the lunch club strand of MSG;
- 3.4 The extension of funding for services funded through the community language strand of MSG will allow the continuation of these services until the outcome of the council's review of all community language services is complete. This review is currently at the stage of consultation with stakeholders and it is anticipated that the outcome of the review and proposals for future provision will be presented to Members for consideration before the end of the year.
- 3.5 To mitigate the impact of the change from MSG to the LCF on community based facilities for older people and, in particular, services provided by community led organisations for elders, the Mayor agreed to set up a new theme in the existing Small Grants Programme. Detailed proposals for this new small grants theme will be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 with a view to funding for this scheme commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.
- 3.6 The extension to MSG funding for community based services for older people, the Lunch Club Strand of the MSG programme, will allow the continuation of these services until the new small grants are available. Existing community based services will be encouraged to apply to the small grants programme.
- 3.7 Funding will be extended to services in the Community Languages and Lunch Club Strands of MSG that have not been offered funding through the LCF.

These organisations are listed at Appendix A together with the recommended amounts for the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. The funding will be subject to the existing MSG funding terms and conditions and, in addition, subject to continued satisfactory performance.

- 3.8 The extension of funding to some MSG funded services was one of a range of transitional arrangements and actions to mitigate negative impact on people with protected equalities characteristics. A full report on these will be made at Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> October. Set out at Appendix B are the agreed actions, timescales and the progress so far.

#### **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A detailed equality analysis was carried out on the change MSG to the new Local Community Fund. This report is primarily concerned with implementing mitigating actions in relation to community language provision and to day services for older people, particularly where this is provided by community based organisations.
- 4.2 The detailed equality analysis can be found at appendix A of the report on the Local Community Fund to Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

#### **5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

##### 5.1 Best Value

Recent legislation, particularly the Localism Act 2010, has emphasised the role of communities working in partnership with local authorities to help achieve more effective and less costly services to local people. The process of co-production of services delivered by local voluntary and community organisations is a tool now widely recognised as a means to achieving this outcome.

##### 5.2 Risk Management

- a. Uncertainty will have an impact on staff morale in organisations currently funded through MSG. There is therefore a risk of the loss of experienced and skilled staff who seeks alternative employment if they perceive that their future employment is insecure. Timely decision making by the council will mitigate the potential impact of this risk, particularly ensuring that funding decisions are made in advance of MSG funded organisations issuing protective redundancy notices to staff at the end of the funding.

##### 5.3 Crime Reduction

There are no specific crime reduction considerations arising from this report.

#### 5.4 Safeguarding

There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report. However, ensuring appropriate consideration is given to safeguarding will be addressed in the development of the Local Community Fund programme, both through governance requirements and in the capacity building programme for the sector proposed.

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

- 6.1 The Main Stream Grant (MSG) Programme was approved by the Commissioners on the 29 July 2015 and initially covered the period between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2018. However, subsequent Grants Determination Committees (GDC) revised the end date of the current programme to 30th September 2019; this was decided at a GDC meeting held on the 6th June 2018.
- 6.2 This report seeks approval for a further extension until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 of MSG funding for services in the Community Language and the Lunch Club strands of the current MSG programme with a cost of £27,192 and £56,104 respectively.
- 6.3 The total cost of £83,296 will be fully funded from the £180k saving identified in the MSG budget for 2019-20 which was to be utilised to cover the cost of transitional and mitigating proposals.

### **7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

- 7.1 The council has the legal power to fund organisations in the manner referred to in this report as it relates to the carrying out of various functions of the council. Also, the Council has the General Legal Power Of Competence derived from the Localism Act 2011.
- 7.2 The council also has the legal duty to ensure that the functions it delivers and therefore any agreements it enters into for the delivery of those functions represent Best Value having regard to the Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy of those agreements. The extensions will be subject to the same levels of monitoring ensuring that the grant funds are spent on the purposes for which they are intended. This assists in demonstrating that the grant agreements represent Best Value
- 7.3 The actions embodied by the recommendations in this report demonstrate that the council has given due consideration to the impact the decision to implement the LCF would have on persons with protected characteristics
- 7.4 Also, following the completion of the evaluation of the LCF, the results were subjected to a further Equality Assessment. The Council then determined an

appropriate course of action in order to mitigate the impact of that potential decision on persons with a protected characteristic when compared with persons who do not have that characteristic. However, this was before the decision to implement the LCF was finalised. The council considered appropriate mitigating measures at a time when the LCF decision was still at a formative stage which is compliant with the Council's Equality Act legal duties.

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

### **Linked Report**

NONE

### **Appendices**

Appendix A Extension of Funding Proposals

Appendix B Transitional Arrangements and Equality Mitigation Actions

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

- NONE

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

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## Community Language Services Funding Proposals

## Appendix A

Organisation Name	Project Title	Project Description	Annual grant	Proposed extension funding
Black Women's Health and Family Support	BWHAFS' Somali Mother Tongue Programme	Mother tongue education in the language that children speak at home with their family. The children who access this provision are bilingual or multilingual. The project provides weekly 2-hour Somali Mother Tongue classes, 38 weeks a year during term time, for young people of Somali heritage aged 7 to 13.	3,000	1,500
Boundary Community School	BCS Mother Tongue Project	Mother Tongue project providing out of school language classes (Bangla) and cultural activities for local young people (age from 6 to 16) from Boundary Estate of Weavers Ward to help boost their confidence. Classes run term time 5:30-7:30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.	4,000	2,000
Chinese Association of Tower Hamlets	Chinese Independent School of Tower Hamlets (Mother Tongue Classes)	CISTH is one of the earliest established Chinese Schools in London. We aim to offer a complete education framework for children that inspires, energizes and develops them to excel as great thinkers and leaders in any field with an integrated background of Chinese language and culture as a key asset.	11,665	5,833
Cubitt Town Bangladeshi Cultural Association	Cubitt Town Bangladeshi Cultural Association	After-school Bengali language classes on Thursday and Friday, two hours each day for 36 weeks a year. The project consists of mother tongue classes, participation in related activities, educational trips and cultural events. All classes take place at St. Luke's Primary School between 5pm and 7pm.	2,222	1,111
Culloden Bangladeshi Parents Association	Culloden Bengali Mother Tongue Programme	CBPA will deliver Bengali Mother Tongue Classes to local children living on the Aberfeldy, Brownfield and Teviot estates where by children will improve their educational attainment, participation and progression by learning their Mother Tongue through reading, writing and speaking skills and cultural studies in the Bengali language .	8,250	4,125
EC Lighthouse Ltd	EC Lighthouse/ Lithuanian School	EC Lighthouse School classes take place on Saturdays (10 am - 5 pm). We teach Lithuanian language, history, dance, drama, music. The school is awarded a Silver Award in the Quality Framework for Supplementary School, has won the British Academy Schools Language Awards..	9,800	4,900
Limehouse Welfare Association	Limehouse Mother Tongue Classes (Bengali)	Mother Tongue Bengali classes will allow disadvantaged children of the local area to learn an additional language and gain a foundation for a qualification in GCSE/A level MFL Bengali. Learning the language will increase students' self-confidence, develop cognitive abilities and foster good relations in the community and wider British society.	5,414	2,707
Stifford Centre Limited	Stifford Community Language Services	Community language classes for 40 children aged 6 -11 years, who wish develop their language skills in Bengali and Arabic. The service runs from Monday to Friday from 5pm to 7pm. Linked to a referral programme for children who wish to undertake GCSE Bengali & Arabic in future.	5,031	2,516
Teviot British Bangladeshi Association (TBBA)	Opportunity	The project is intended to provide Mother Tongue classes for local Bangladeshi children around Teviot areas LAP 7 age between 8-12 years old.	2,000	1,000
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Wapping Bengali Mother Tongue Community Languages Project	The project will raise the academic achievements, participation and progression of disadvantaged Bangladeshi children through the provision of Bengali Mother Tongue Education. It will help to strengthen the identity of Bangladeshi Children through cultural awareness through studies in Bengali history, the arts and culture and promote community cohesion.	3,000	1,500

			54,382	27,192
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## Day Facilities for Older People Funding Proposals

Organisation Name	Project Title	Project Description	Annual grant	Proposed extension funding
Chinese Association of Tower Hamlets	Chinese and Vietnamese Elderly Luncheon Club	CATH's Luncheon Club is aimed primarily, but not exclusively, at Chinese and Vietnamese Elders who wish to improve their physical and mental wellbeing. Through our programme of fun and informative activities, and exercise classes, we wish to give attendees the awareness and knowledge to work on raising their own health.	10,200	5,100
Dorset Community Association	Older People Lunch Club	The projects to provide older people per week aged fifty and over the opportunity to attend a locally lunch club provision. To enhance the lives of older people who may be at risk of social isolation or gradually losing their independence, through the provision of a range of activities.	13,020	6,510
Ensign Youth Club	Unity	The project is intended to provide social interactive service for local elderly people 50+ from Bangladeshi and Somali by providing weekly structure coffee morning and healthy affordable meal with health and recreation activities based on their need and abilities.	8,107	4,054
Limehouse Project Limited	Limehouse Luncheon Club for Elders	The LLCE brings people aged 55+ together to enjoy a healthy meal, socialise and partake in group activities such as gentle exercises and games. With general advisers on hand to assist with any worries being faced, it aims to help relieve loneliness, increase self-confidence and enhance each elder's quality of life.	14,040	7,020
Somali Senior Citizens Club	Somali Senior Citizens Club	Our project aims to promote health and well being of vulnerable local community (Tower Hamlets). This project is to support and enhance the lives of elderly individuals who suffer from social isolation, economic deprivation and lack of independence by providing luncheon club and supplementary activities, social and cultural integration. The project will be delivering at our Granby Hall Centre address.	32,520	16,260
Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Poplar Elderly Lunch Club Two	Wadajir's Poplar Lunch Club for older women meets four days a week from Monday to Thursday 10 am--2pm to share freshly cooked halal meals. Women are also welcome to join in traditional Somali dance sessions, craft workshops for improved physical and mental health as well as regular health talks.	18,720	9,360
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Wapping Senior Citizen's Lunch Club	The lunch club will enable WBA to increase socialisation to reduce loneliness, social isolation and promote a healthier lifestyle through improved healthy lives activities that will encourage and engage older people. The Lunch Club will give them the chance to socialise while enjoying a hot, healthy balanced and nutritious meal.	15,600	7,800
			129,007	56,104



## MSG Transitional Arrangements and Equality Mitigation Actions

Action	Timescale	Progress
Give as much notice as possible when decisions are made to give organisations the opportunity to adjust to their new funding levels	Aug/Sept 2019	Complete
Work with organisations to seek alternative provision for service users where a service is significantly reduced or comes to an end	Aug-Oct 19	Officers from the Voluntary Sector Team are actively engaging with organisations to identify alternative provision for service users where appropriate.
Work with funded organisations especially at contract mobilisation to target and promote new services funded under LCF programme	Aug- Nov 19	Organisations have been asked to engage with the council's social media to promote new services.
Support a programme of capacity building to increase organisations' chance of bidding successfully, provided by THCVS, the Council and other providers;	Aug 19- Mar 20	Contract in place for THCVS support package. Other measures to be delivered by the council commented on below.
Make available, through THCVS and other partners as appropriate, a programme of support available in advance of the end of MSG to help VCS organisations in the transition from MSG to either alternative funding or an orderly change in the level of service;	Aug – Dec 19	Officers from the Voluntary Sector Team are actively engaging with organisations previously funded through MSG to develop transition action plans for their services
Continue the VCS Small Grants programme and link to other funders to provide funding opportunities for organisations to meet new and emerging needs and develop new ways of tackling existing needs	(ongoing)	Programme continues to March 2023
Promote and support Tower Hamlets Spacehive programme to help organisations to access crowdfunding;	(ongoing)	Dedicated officer support in place to develop crowdfunding initiatives, particularly for organisations previously funded through MSG
Retain the Emergency Fund to help organisations meet the costs of transition, particularly those directly linked to lower levels of revenue funding	Aug 19- Mar 21	Retained as part of transition support package.
Develop and launch a new Tower Hamlets funders forum to help identify and promote local funding sources;	Apr 20	Initial discussions held with THCVS and the East End Community Foundation.
Support organisations facing significant change and possible cessation of service	Ongoing	Capacity building and other transitional arrangements in place.
Manage transition of community language services	Mar 20	Extension of funding to 31 March 2020 for projects supported under MSG in the community language theme proposed. Review scheduled to report to Members by the year end.
Maintain participation and access for BME communities	Apr 20	Include a new theme in the Small Grants Programme relating to access and participation to establish schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities. Draft being prepared for consultation during September/October. Proposal to be presented to Cabinet in October
Provision for young people's mental health	Dec 19	Proposal under development
Provision for early years age children or pregnant and new mothers	Dec 19	Proposal under development
Provision for young carers priority	Dec 19	Proposal under development

Need to support community led older peoples services, particularly those led by BME communities	Apr 20	Include a new theme in the Small Grants Programme to support projects which combat social isolation of older people, particularly in BAME communities, through community based services which will be reviewed over time in the context of the development of the council's review of day care for older people; Draft being prepared for consultation during September/October. Proposal to be presented to Cabinet in October
Need to ensure Geographical Spread	Ongoing	Proposals were assessed to establish whether there was evidence or track record to indicate the borough wide bids could deliver to residents across Tower Hamlets. This will be a specific element of the ongoing assessment of LCF funded projects.