

Grants Determination Cabinet Sub-Committee 9 September 2020	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance	Classification: Unrestricted
VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority	

Lead Member	John Biggs, the Mayor Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources
Originating Officer(s)	David Freeman, VCS Strategy Manager Awo Ahmed, Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer & Brenda Doku, Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	
Reason for Key Decision	
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting,
2. Note the new Small Grants Programme theme 'Covid-19 Test and Trace Outreach and Engagement' set out at appendix A2, and
3. Note the decisions made by the Mayor regarding rent relief for VCS organisations that lease premises from the council.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are a number of funding programmes to support voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough where decisions are made under delegated authority either by officers or, in the case of the Small Grants Programme, the East End Community Foundation (EECF). These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The council could decide not to provide funding to VCS organisations through its various programmes. However, to do this would be contrary to the agreed policy to support VCS activities in the borough set out in the VCS Strategy 2016-19.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Small Grants Programme

- 3.1 The Small Grants Programme was established to ensure that local people and community groups will continue to be able to get funding from the council to support community initiatives – people getting together to get things done. The programme is intended to make funds available to support grass roots activity in local communities that will help make life better in Tower Hamlets and achieve the changes set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan and the council's Strategic Plan. By establishing a single grants programme with different themes or activities to be funded, the council is trying to make sure local groups seeking funds will have a one stop shop to get to the funds best suited to their needs.

3.2 The programme has seven themes. The five themes that constitute the main programme have been open for projects commencing from 1st October 2019 and three more targeted themes set up during 2019/20 have funded projects commencing from 1st April 2020.

Main themes

1. **Innovation** - to encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap;
2. **Prevention** - to promote grass roots activity to reduce the need for statutory services;
3. **Neighbourhood action** - to promote local neighbourhood initiatives
4. **Community cohesion** - to develop community resilience, promote cultural opportunities and reduce social isolation, and
5. **Partnership working** - making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.

Focussed Themes

6. **Community Support Services for Older People** – to combat social isolation of older people through the provision of community based support services.
7. **Access and Participation** – to establishing access and participation schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities.
8. **Loneliness** - Reducing the impact of loneliness and isolation

3.3 Details of the first round of small grant awards for 2020/21 are set out at Appendix A1. This includes the three new themes

3.4 Applications to this round of the small grants programme were submitted prior to the restrictions put in place relating to Covid 19. Since the start of the pandemic, EECF have been liaising closely with all previously funded programmes and requesting Covid contingency plans detailing how they have re-purposed their small grants award since the pandemic. All contingency plans are sent to officers in Corporate Strategy and Policy for sign off. Further due diligence work is carried out by EECF with organisations that have re-configured delivery in light of Covid ensuring risk assessments and social distancing policies are applied.

3.5 The budget and expenditure across all the themes to date is set out below.

Small Grants Financial Summary				
Theme	2019/20 budget £,000s	2019/20 expenditure £,000s	2020/21 budget £,000s	2020/21 expenditure £,000s
Innovation Prevention Neighbourhood action Community Cohesion Partnership working	90	90	180	57
Community Support Services for Older People	0	0	100	100

Access and Participation	0	0	50	15
Loneliness	0	0	50	27
Totals	90	90	380	199

EECF Six-month summary report

- 3.6 The EECF has recently provided a summary report of the projects funded in the first rounds of the Small Grants Programme, projects commencing from 1 October 2019 and 1 January 2020, which is attached for information.
- 3.7 This report shows that the small grants programme had a very high demand with over £650k requested in 2019/20 against a budget of £90k for that year. The key points include:
- Within its first half year of operation the Small Grants Fund supported 22 local organisations and funded activities which are expected to reach over 8,000 local residents;
 - Half the applications were from organisations that had not been funded recently by the council;
 - Half the applications received were from small groups (turnover under £50k per annum);
 - Slightly less than half the grants awarded were to small groups, and
 - The geographic distribution of awards indicates there were proportionately few successful applications from organisations based in the north east and south west of the borough. However, with the comparatively small number of awards this may not be statistically significant. If this trend continues the council may need to consider more targeted publicity and support. Also, the report shows where successful applicants are based, not the full reach of their services across the borough.
- 3.8 At the time of reporting most funded projects were ongoing and had not submitted detailed project reports. Five had submitted reports that show;
- 200 residents were involved as volunteers;
 - 630 residents engaged in activities for the first time;
 - 60% of project beneficiaries were from BME communities
 - 60% of project beneficiaries were under 25.
- 3.9 When Cabinet agreed that the Small Grants Programme should be administered by an external body, one of the elements of additionality anticipated from such an arrangement was joint funding with other funders. Two of the projects funded in the first rounds of the small grants programme were jointly funded with other funding programmes managed by the East End Community Foundation.

New Small Grants Programme Theme

3.10 The grants policy agreed by Cabinet in 2018 states that all new VCS grants programmes set up by the council should be linked to the Small Grants Programme to ensure consistence of approach and to avoid duplication. The council's Covid-19 Communications and Community Engagement group has set up a new scheme for small grants to local groups to enable dissemination of information about Covid-19 response which will be administered as part of the Small Grants Programme by the East End Community Foundation.

3.11 The London Borough of Tower Hamlets published the coronavirus outbreak control plan, Keep Tower Hamlets Safe, on 30th June 2020. It sets out a vision to keep cases of coronavirus infection as low as possible, and to protect people from its impacts. It sets out two particular aims:

- All people from communities and groups where the risk of infection and impact is higher have the information and support needed to protect themselves and others, get tested and self-isolate when needed
- Whenever disparities are identified between different groups, we will ensure these are addressed as part of any response

A Health and Wellbeing Board, Covid-19 Local Engagement Board, co-chaired by the mayor and the lead member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, oversees the community engagement ambition within this plan ensuring that local residents have access to the information they need in the way they can use it.

3.12 Through a Safe Communities community engagement strategy, the Keep Tower Hamlets Safe plan sets out a set of engagement mechanisms through which we can achieve these aims. Alongside some specific outreach support, this sets out a specific community fund grant to provide enabler funding for local community groups and organisations to promote NHS Test and Trace. The detailed scheme for this new small grants programme theme is set out at appendix A2

3.13 The priorities that are set out in the grant guidelines are:

- a. Helping people to access the information and support needed to protect themselves and others, get tested and self-isolate when needed.
- b. Working with people from communities and groups where the risk of infection and impact is greatest
- c. Concrete plans for its expenditure and impact

3.14 It is acknowledged there are other small grant themes that are supporting work to minimise the impact of Covid-19 on community members. The focus will be specific to the management of the outbreak response and the communication of these messages.

3.15 Groups of people who come together without necessarily being a formally constituted group will be able to apply for grants up to £500 under this theme. Grants up to £2,000 will be available for established community groups. The total grant available in the first year would be £30,000 which is being funded through the Local Coronavirus Outbreak Control fund. The Communications and Community Engagement bronze group is working on a set of practical

measures that we can use to track the impact of the work on Covid-19 community engagement.

- 3.16 This new Small Grants Programme theme will be administered for the council by the East End Community Foundation.

Innovation Fund

- 3.17 The council is keen to encourage and support innovation in the sector and acknowledged that this would require some funding to enable the sector to pilot new initiatives and approaches to service delivery and support.
- 3.18 The Innovation Fund supports VCS organisations to "test and learn" new ways of working, new initiatives and new delivery models that if successful could be scaled up and commissioned more formally.
- 3.19 VCS organisations that crowdfund through the Our Tower Hamlets page of the Spacehive portal will have an opportunity to pitch for whichever is lower of up to £10,000 or a maximum of 50 per cent of an organisations crowdfunding target, in match funding for their projects.
- 3.20 Further details can be found on the [Space Hive Tower Hamlets](#) and the [Innovation Fund](#) pages with more information available in the [factsheet](#).
- 3.21 Decisions are made by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee based on recommendations of an advisory panel which consists of the Chief Executive of the East End Community Foundation, the Head of Corporate Strategy and Policy and officers from the VCS Team.
- 3.22 Details of pledges agreed by officers under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee from the Innovation Fund and projects that have succeeded in reaching their targets are set out in Appendix B.

Innovation Fund Financial Summary		
Previous awards:	Amount pledged (£)	Amount released (£)
Pledged to organisations	£105,170	
Released to date		
Original Budget	£120,000.00	
Remaining Balance	£14,438	

Contingency Fund

- 3.23 The Contingency Fund was set up by the Sub-Committee to extend the existing Emergency Fund from being purely a fund to support organisations facing 'life and limb' emergencies to a fund that may also support organisations facing the impact of a significant loss of council funding.

- 3.24 VCS organisations that meet criteria set out in the Contingency Fund agreed by the Sub Committee at its meeting on 6th November 2019 may apply to the council for funding to meet 'life and limb' emergencies, normally significant financial liabilities that might not have been reasonably foreseen.
- 3.25 Where an organisation has recently lost significant funding from the council the Contingency Fund could, until recently, also be used for transitional support for an ongoing service if an organisation could demonstrate that there is a reasonable chance of alternative funding being secured, normally within six months of the end of council funding.
- 3.26 At the meeting held on 29 July 2020, the Mayor in Cabinet agreed to close the transition element of the Contingency Fund and extend the Fund further to include support for organisations affected by Covid 19.
- a. Covid Organisational Support Fund – Up to £5,000 Available for VCS organisations that need to restructure their organisation to incorporate the current Social Distancing and other restrictions or to respond to covid 19 more generally. This includes organisations currently funded to deliver frontline/direct contact services to residents who will need to restructure their organisation to reflect the current climate.
 - b. Covid Re-Purposing Fund – Up to £5,000 VCS organisations could apply for this fund, either to deliver services differently to residents and beneficiaries – adapting services to remote delivery or ii. where Covid has meant that there is good reason for the organisation to deliver different kinds of services. Funding could be applied to cover the up-front costs of changing the way services are delivered (e.g. any new equipment, or training), and then enabling to continue to deliver in these new ways (including staffing and ongoing service costs) to increase the reach and capacity of services.
- 3.27 The budget identified for 2020/21 for the Contingency Fund is £100k. There are already 2 awards made against this budget in this financial year totalling £25,795.50 and a further application pending approval of £5,000. There is therefore £69,204.50 remaining. A further £50,000 has been drawn down from reserves to support the Covid Community Fund. The total budget remaining for 20/21 is therefore £119,204.50.
- 3.28 Applications for grants from these new elements of the Contingency Fund are expected to open very soon.
- 3.29 Awards are made from the Contingency Fund by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee. Details of awards made by officers under delegated authority from the Contingency Fund since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee are set out at Appendix C

Community Benefit Rent Reduction

- 3.30 The Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme was set up by the council to acknowledge the value of the work carried out by voluntary and

community organisations leasing its premises through a reduction in the rent payable. The council charges an appropriate 'market' level rent for its premises and organisations can apply for up to 80% of this as a rent reduction.

- 3.31 CBRR is only available for short leases of three to five years. To qualify, organisations need to meet a number of criteria relating to governance, management and quality standards. Full details of the scheme are set out on the council's website at [CBRR page](#).
- 3.32 Decisions are made by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee based on recommendations of an advisory panel which consists of the Head of Revenues (Chair), Head of Corporate Strategy and Policy and the Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service.
- 3.33 No new CBRR awards have been made by officers under delegated authority since the Sub-Committee's last meeting.

CBRR Financial Summary			
	Total rent payable pa	CBRR (80%) Grant per annum	Organisation contribution pa
Applications approved	£249,292	£207,034	£51,758
Leases completed and CBRR payable	£23,000	£18,400	£4,600

Rent Relief

- 3.34 On 23 April 2020 the Mayor made an Individual Mayoral Decision to award rent relief to support local community based organisations that lease premises from the council, including those which are faith based, during the Covid 19 epidemic.
- 3.35 These buildings leased to local organisations were subject to government regulations which in most cases resulted in closure and loss of income to the lessees at a time when demand for services was increasing and other funding more difficult to secure.
- 3.36 Granting rent relief for three months helped community organisations through the crisis and helped ensure they would be able to continue to provide valued services to local residents in the future.
- 3.37 The list of awards is attached at appendix D. Post award checks disclosed that one organisation already had its rent paid through a service agreement and some rents of nominal amounts are considered to be peppercorn rents and not collected. One organisation declined the offer. The overall cost was therefore reduced from £98,210 to £93,696.

- 3.38 The rent relief scheme ran for three months. At the end of June the organisations that has received rent relief were offered the opportunity to apply to the council's rent deferral scheme, the scheme set up to support commercial tenants. Two applied.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All grants awarded need to demonstrate how they meet they need of our diverse communities and support the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. Equalities data is collected as part of the monitoring process and this will be reported as part of the annual reporting process.

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

There is a risk that, by not publishing details of funding awarded to VCS organisations, the council could leave itself open to challenge that it is not fulfilling previous commitments to openness and transparency. This report is one of a series that will provide updates on funding decisions made under delegated authority and the VCS Annual Report will provide more detailed analysis.

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 Small Grants Programme, both through governance requirements and in the capacity building programme for the sector proposed.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report notes the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community (VCS) organisations under delegated authority. The total of grants awarded is contained within the available budget.

6.2 A new theme for 2020-21 has been included in the Small Grants Programme for Covid-19 Test and Trace Outreach and Engagement grants of up to £5,000 funded from the Covid Community Fund of £119,205.

6.3 The funding for both the Rent Relief Scheme, £93,696 and the Covid Community Fund, £119,205 are included in the Covid-19 claim submission to central government.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 The grants and information noted in this report are in line with approvals previously made. There are no legal implications in this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

NONE

Appendices

Appendix A Small Grants Programme

Appendix B Innovation Fund

Appendix C Contingency Fund

Appendix D Rent Relief

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Main Programme 2020/21 Round One

1. This round of the Small Grants Programme closed on 9 March 2020. 40 applications were submitted with an overall total of £150,904 requested against the £180,000 in the small grants budget to be allocated in the three funding rounds for the current financial year.

Theme	No. of Applications	Total Requested £
Innovation	2	10,000
Prevention	12	2,150
Neighbourhood Action	2	55,659
Community Cohesion	24	83,095
Partnership	0	0
Total	40	150,904

2. Applications were received from a wide range of projects, though, as illustrated above, the half focussed on the community cohesion theme.
3. 24 projects were funded amounting to £57,427 as set out in the attached spreadsheet and summarised below. Of these, 12 projects are £1,000 or less (total £8,578) and 12 are more than £1,000 (total £48,849).

Theme	No. of Grants	Total recommended £
Innovation	1	5,000
Prevention	5	23,649
Neighbourhood Action	2	2,150
Community Cohesion	16	26,628
Partnership	0	0
Total	24	57,427

4. Of the 24 grants:
- Five are from BME community led organisations;
 - Eight focus on older people;
 - Two focus on supporting women;
 - Five focus on children and young people;
 - Two focus on mental wellbeing

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5 2020/21 Budget

2020/21 budget	£180,000
Round One grants	£57,427
Balance remaining for rounds two and three	£122,573

6 Locality Funding

Two projects have been funded through the LHC Community Benefit Fund, a scheme administered by Locality, the national community development organisation that the council has worked with previously on the development of community hubs.

LHC is public sector procurement consortium providing specialist technical and procurement services to its members throughout the UK. As a not-for-profit organisation, any surpluses generated from procurement activity is returned to members. As part of this a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) has been set up with funding available for each of the member local authority areas in which it works, which includes Tower Hamlets. The CBF is particularly interested in funding small projects that have the potential to link in to its work on developing social outcomes.

Locality has been liaising with EECF to select small grants applications that would meet the CBF criteria. The CBF will fund the community cohesion theme application from the Oitij-jo Collective and, in the Loneliness theme, the application from Bowhaven.

The two £5,000 grants will be administered by EECF as part of the small grants programme with no additional administrative cost to the council. It is likely there will be a further allocation of funding during 2020/21.

Access and Participation Theme 2020/21 Round One

1. The Access and Participation Theme of the Small Grants Programme was set up as one of the Local Community Fund Equality Analysis Action Plan (EAAP) mitigating actions to support the role of smaller BME community led organisations as a gateway for people from those communities to gain access to mainstream services through signposting and referral and to act as an advocate for those communities that might not otherwise have a collective voice. This is the first round of applications to this theme.
2. This round of the Small Grants Programme closed on 9 March 2020. Three applications were considered with an overall total of £16,916 requested against the £50,000 allocated to this theme in the three funding rounds for the current financial year. The three applications and the amounts awarded are set out in detail in the table below. They are,

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Organisation	Project Name	Amount £
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Community Information Access	4,916
Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association	IoD Bangladeshi Residents Club	5,000
Hornafrik Integration Projects	BME Bridging Project	5,000
Total		14,916

3. All three projects focus on the access priorities of the theme. This is the first round of the theme and there will be the opportunity during the year to promote the theme further and generate a wider range of applications.
4. The total budget for the theme is £50,000. £14,916 has been allocated in this round, leaving £35,084 for the remaining funding rounds.

Loneliness Theme 2020/21 Round One

1. The Mayor's task force on Loneliness aims to stimulate and support a social movement of people across the borough that are engaged and encouraged to take their own actions, however small and local, that will make a difference and bring people together to increased social connectedness at street level, neighbourhood level and across the borough. To help this an additional theme in the small grants programme has been established that focuses around loneliness and social isolation specifically. This is the first round of applications to this theme.
2. This round of the Small Grants Programme closed on 9 March 2020. Ten applications were considered with an overall total of £45,397 requested against the £50,000 allocated to this theme in the three funding rounds for the current financial year. The applications and the amounts awarded are set out in detail in the attached spreadsheet (worksheet 'Access and Participation'). The seven successful applications are listed below
3. The total budget for the theme is £50,000. £26,666 has been allocated in this round. Taking account of the £5,000 CBF funding for Bowhaven, £28,334 remains for the two further funding rounds.

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Organisation	Project Name	Amount £
Neighbours In Poplar	Loneliness	4,680
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Wapping's Mums Club	5,000
Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Girls Youth Group	5,000
Blossom Project	Blossom Together	4,986
Individual Application - Shahnaz Rifat	Mindful Mothers Project	1,000
Individual Application - Abdul Rawkib	Chai Club	1,000
BowHaven	Operation Loneliness	5,000
Total		26,666

4. This theme allows applications from individuals for 'micro' grants (ie £1,000 or less) where the funding is granted through an accountable body that is a constituted VCS organisation. In both cases the accountable body is Social Action for Health. This approach has been used successfully in the past by public health to deliver small grants to support very local initiatives.

Community Support Services for Older People Theme

1. The benefits of providing community support services for older people are well documented in helping to promote wellbeing and a longer healthy life through reducing social isolation, increasing physical activity and maintaining independence in older age. The Equality Analysis of the change from the council's Mainstream Grants programme to the Local Community Fund highlighted a potential negative impact on services for older people, particularly those from smaller minority communities who use services provided by organisations led by members of their own community.
2. This small grant theme therefore focusses on supporting community based services run by BME led community groups. It is set up to fund activities that bring older people together and provide activities that will increase independence and wellbeing and reduce social isolation.
3. In this theme priority was given to services for older people provided by BME community led organisations.
4. 13 applications were received amounting to £168,600. Of these, eight met the criteria and were awarded funding. One was declined because it duplicated a service provided through the Local Community Fund, two were referred to the main programme and were funded in the Community Cohesion theme. The other two were declined because they did not present good value for money.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

5. This theme was set up as part of the Local Community Fund Equality Analysis Action Plan. It was intended to be awarded in full in a single round and the successful applicants will have the opportunity to renew their funding subject to satisfactory performance

Organisation Name	Project Name	Grant
Somali Senior Citizens Club	Somali Elders Lunch Club & Community Engagement Project	12,770
Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Elderly Lunch Club	12,770
Wapping Bangladesh Association	The Older People's Friendship Club	12,770
Dorset Community Association	Dorset Older People Lunch Club	10,610
The Ensign Youth Club	UNITY Project	12,770
Weavers Community Forum	Weavers Health Project	12,770
Hornafrik Integration Projects	E14 BME Senior Citizen Project	12,770
The Bangladesh Youth Movement	Golden Years	12,770
		100,000

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Small Grants Main Programme

No.	Organisation	Project	Project Description	Comments	Grant
Innovation					
1	You Be You	You Be You	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a project focused on breaking down gender stereotypes amongst primary school children in the borough. They will provide fun activity boxes to be used by teachers and for parents to use with children at home and also plan to sell the associated Key Stage 1 curriculum resources to schools. The aim is to engage 10 schools in the first year and three schools in the borough are currently on a waiting list to take part. The organisation is in conversation with two more schools and there are plans to engage more through links with local community and parent groups, cooperation with Councillor Danny Hassell and targeting multi academy trusts.	The proposal is certainly innovative and it presents a new way of working with young people and would align well with the theme outcomes. The organisation have submitted a revised budget and have schools on a waiting list, existing links with other schools and a reasonable plan in place to engage further schools in the borough.	5,000
Prevention					
2	ALL 4 TEENS (A4T) chic	ISBEDEL	The organisation is proposing to deliver a varied programme of sessions for 40 young BME people, aged 13-19, hosted at Granby Hall. Participants will be recruited through the organisations existing sport sessions, posters and links with other community groups. The project will run for 48 weeks and sessions will take place every Tuesday evening for two hours. Each week the participants will alternate between boys and girls and two qualified volunteer youth workers will support the delivery. The project plan includes the following for each group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 cooking and nutrition sessions • 6 life skills sessions on subjects such as budgeting and planning for the future • 3 workshops delivered by inspirational role models such as the Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets • 3 sessions on community issues such as drug and alcohol awareness and gang culture 	The application is very clearly articulated and the activities and outcomes align closely with the theme. Despite being a relatively new organisation, the group have evidenced a track record of delivery in the local area before being constituted as a CIC and have links with other local groups. The organisation also has not received funding from the council previously and has annual income of less than £30,000 so it has also been prioritised on this basis.	4,949

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3	Sketch Appeal	The Art of Self-Love	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a six week course of weekly creative workshops for 15 adults that are socially isolated or living with mental health needs. The sessions will focus on personal development and utilise drawing as a form of mindfulness and creative play. Participants will be required to complete an application form to ensure that places are given to those most in need and, if successful, will be required to commit to the full six weeks. The organisation will also arrange eight monthly full day drop-in sessions for participants in need of ongoing support and social connection. Recruitment of participants will be through referrals from GP's and other social prescribers.	The proposed activities clearly align with the Prevention theme and the group has evidenced that the project will be targeted at those who need it the most. The organisation has not received funding from the council previously and has annual income of less than £30,000 so it has also been prioritised on this basis.	3,940
4	The Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM)	"Inclusive Advice" [Female Advice & Advocacy Initiative]	The organisation is proposing to deliver a varied programme of advice and advocacy for local BAME women experiencing exclusion, debt and poverty. This will include a four hour drop-in advice session per week, one follow up appointment per week and ongoing telephone support for women who find it difficult to visit the organisation's centre. Women will be able to seek advice on subjects such as Universal Credit issues, housing support and debt management. Advice will be delivered by a dedicated Officer and the project will be supported by 10 volunteers, two at each session. The organisation is AQS accredited to deliver the advice service.	The activities clearly align well with the prevention theme and the project will target particularly marginalised individuals who face multiple barriers to accessing other support services. The organisation has evidenced the capacity to deliver the project and the relevant accreditation is in place. They have also demonstrated that the project is completely separate to the work previously supported through the Older People's theme.	4,891
5	The Shadwell Community Project	Grow, Cook and Eat!	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a food growing programme at Glamis Adventure Playground in Shadwell. The project will take place during the summer months and will produce fruit and vegetables for children to cook and eat. A gardener will be employed to run 15 planting sessions and a chef will teach children how to cook with the harvested ingredients. Three open access community events will also be arranged, the first of which will be delivered with the allotment users on Open Gardens Day in June. Volunteers, staff and young members will host activities and the Children's Cafe will raise funds for future activities. The organisation anticipate that a total of 400 local children and young people and 100 adults will visit the sessions.	The application was originally made under the Community Cohesion theme however the proposed activities align more closely with Prevention. The activities will improve the health and wellbeing of participants.	4,884

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

6	London Jaguars FC	Women's Only Fitness and Nutrition Sessions	The organisation is proposing to deliver a varied fitness and nutrition programme for 20 adult BAME women in the borough. Sessions will take place for two hours each Saturday at Blossom Project and will run for 45 weeks. Activities will include Zumba, fitness sessions, group discussions, talks by guest speakers and an awards ceremony at the end of the year. The organisation has a waiting list of those that have expressed interest in the programme at a focus group and the sessions will be promoted through flyers, social media and word of mouth.	The proposal was originally made under the Access and Participation theme but it is much more closely aligned with Prevention. The project plan is clearly articulated and a demand for the sessions is evidenced. The activities fit closely with the priorities and outcomes of the theme.	4,985
Neighbourhood Action					
7	Prospect Walk Allotments Association	Prospect Walk Allotments Association Communal Shed	The organisation is seeking funding to purchase and install a large communal shed to store shared gardening tools and set up a seed bank allowing members to save and swap seeds in an organised way. The shed will also provide storage for advice leaflets, gardening books and other information and it is intended to use it as a focal point for future community open days. Part of the grant would also go towards replacing two of the allotments water tanks that are in an advanced state of decay.	The organisation has demonstrated that the allotment is primarily used by people living in the immediate locality and that the refurbishments will increase opportunities for other residents to participate in community activities. This aligns with the priorities and outcomes of the theme.	1,200
8	Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum	Bow People's Plan	The forum produced a draft plan with groups and individuals from Bow and want to carry out more public engagement to seek local responses to the plan before submitting it to the council. The engagement will be conducted through public activities and online consultations and afterwards the plan will be voted on in a local referendum.	The project allow locals to voice their thoughts on the neighbourhood plan and the activities detailed respond to the theme priorities and outcomes. The budget is realistic and reflects the plan for delivery.	950
Community Cohesion					
9	Alpha Grove Community Centre	Community Fun Day	To organise a community Fun Day at the Alpha Grove Community Centre during the summer for disadvantaged families. The event will consist of a barbeque, games, arts and crafts activities and other outdoor activities.	The organisation has provided a clear explanation of how the event is relevant to the theme outcomes and priorities and the project budget reflects the delivery plan. The centre has been delivering similar events for over 40 years and has proposed a clear project plan.	678
10	Ebeegees	New Years Trip for Elderly	A coach trip to Burstead Golf Club with lunch and entertainment for socially isolated elderly people.	The group have demonstrated a link to the theme priorities and outcomes and monitoring plan is in place to measure these. The budget reflects the delivery plan and the organisation has been providing these types of activities for over 30 years to members who often do not have other holidays or social outings.	600

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11	Emmott Close Senior Citizens Club	Forever Young	Weekly activities providing breakfast and lunch sessions throughout the year for socially isolated elders. The grant will contribute towards weekly food shopping for the sessions and also hiring a mini bus from for a seaside trip.	The group has demonstrated a link to the theme priorities and outcomes. A good monitoring plan is in place and the budget is reflective of the delivery plan. The club was established over 50 years ago and has extensive experience of supporting elderly residents.	1,000
12	Friends of St Eugene	Enabling Friendships 2020	The grant will cover four get-togethers throughout the year for young adults who feel lonely in the area of Whitechapel and St Katherines. The individuals have been identified from previous events delivered.	The group has detailed how their outcomes are achievable and has demonstrated a link with the theme. The activities proposed are appropriate for the needs identified and a good monitoring plan is in place. The budget provided is reasonable and reflects the delivery plan.	900
13	Golden Girls	Coach Trips, BBQ & Refreshments	The grant will cover three to four coach trips, barbeques, afternoon teas and refreshments for elderly from all backgrounds.	The group has proposed relevant activities to respond to the needs of the elderly. The outcomes link with the theme and a monitoring plan is in place to measure them. The project budget is realistic and reflects the delivery plan.	600
14	Sonali Day Trippers	Sonali Day Trippers	The grant will cover two seaside trips and one community barbeque for elderly residents at Sonali Gardens .	The proposed activities are an appropriate response to the needs of local elderly people and a link has been demonstrated with the theme. The budgeted costs identified are reasonable and reflect the delivery plan. The outcomes are achievable and a good monitoring plan is in place to measure.	1,000
15	Island House Craft Club	Island House Craft Club	The grant will cover coach fees for day trips and arts and craft sessions delivered once a week for local elderly people.	A link to the theme priorities and outcomes is demonstrated and the project budget is realistic and reflects the plan. The activities proposed are and appropriate response to the needs identified and the club has been supporting local elderly people since 1996.	350
16	St John's Bingo Club	Thursday Bingo Group	To carry on running the Bingo Club at St. John's (IOD) Community Association allowing the elderly to meet and have fun throughout the year.	The club have demonstrated a link to the themes priorities and outcomes. A monitoring plan is in place and the budget reflects the delivery plan. The bingo club has been running since 1981 and aims to bring the elderly together with participants contribute £1 towards the service.	500

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17	The Geezers Club	The Geezers Club	To arrange combined trips for club members with Bow Bowls, Bow Belles and Age UK East London. Speakers from different local service providers will also give talks on a range of issues.	The club did not state the theme they are applying under however this project is in line with the Community Cohesion theme's priorities and outcomes. The club has been running since 2008 and has links with elderly care groups. A reasonable monitoring plan is also in place.	500
18	Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest	Monthly Lunch Club	The grant will cover the costs of a summer outing to a seaside resort, a theatre trip, guest speakers and Christmas gifts and birthday parties for elderly club members.	The application was deferred from the Community Support Services for Older People theme as the planned activities are more relevant to this theme. The group has a simple monitoring plan in place to measure the positive changes. However, a reduced amount has been recommended as the programme will not support buying Christmas presents for beneficiaries.	500
19	Rethink Mental Illness	Carers Healthy Cooking & Gardening Group	To run a healthy cooking and gardening club for mental health carers. St Peters North Community Centre will be used to grow fruits and vegetables, as a kitchen and as a space to eat. The grant will be used to purchase seeds, soil, gardening equipment, cooking ingredients and utensils. There will also be nutrition and pain management advice for the carers.	The project aligns with the priorities and outcomes of the theme. The activities proposed are an appropriate response to the needs identified and a reasonable monitoring plan is in place. The organisation is recommended for funding based on the project however Rethink Mental Illness is a national charity with an annual income exceeding £25 million a year. The services they provide in Tower Hamlets are solely funded by the CCG to the amount of £142,000 a year with no other support. The applicant has argued that the Tower Hamlets Carers service represents a separate group to the national organisation and the application should be assessed on this basis.	1,000
20	Rainbow Film Society	21st Rainbow Film Festival	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver the 22nd Rainbow International Film Festival, taking place between 30th May - 6th June 2021 at Genesis Cinema and the Rich Mix Centre. The festival is anticipated to attract 1000 visitors primarily from Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Somali communities and they will be recruited through the organisations links with a range of local organisations and a marketing campaign. The festival will be supported by 25 volunteers and activities will include daily screenings of films from across the world, a poster and picture exhibition, Q & A sessions, dedicated screenings for	The organisation has demonstrated a clear approach to targeting different sections of the community and the activities proposed will build cross community understanding and relationships. For these reasons it aligns closely well with the theme priorities and outcomes. A reduced grant amount has been recommended in line with what has previously been awarded for events.	3,500

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			children, a women's conference and film making workshop and an awards ceremony.		
21	Udichi Gosthi Shilpi	Bangladesh Book Fair, Literary and Cultural Festival	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver their tenth Bangladesh Book Fair, a literary and cultural festival showcasing Bengali writers, artists, performers and cultural activists. Other performances from groups representing the Somali, Chinese and Irish communities will also feature. Additional activities on the day will include poetry recitations, creative workshops and children's activities. Approximately 35 arts organisations and 150 artists will contribute towards the two-day event and the organisation expects to attract a multi-cultural audience of over 1000.	The organisation was funded to deliver the event previously and a satisfactory end of grant monitoring report was returned. The application makes a clear case for how diverse sections of the community will be included and the event fits well with the priorities and outcomes of the theme. A reduced grant amount has been recommended in line with what has previously been awarded for events.	3,500
22	Lower Regent's Coalition	East End Canal Festival and Film Project	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver the East End Canal Festival, celebrating 200 years of the Regent's Canal with workshops, presentations and open days in advance of the event. This will include an art exhibition inspired by the canal, boat trips, guided walks, stalls, children's activities, creative workshops and a floating cinema. The grant requested would cover project management, the costs of providing the boat trips and the production of a film by local filmmaker, gathering memories from Bangladeshi residents about living by water in Bangladesh to illustrate a history in common. This would then be screened at the event and used in the organisations work with schools and other local organisations.	The proposal is very clear and the activities and overall objectives of the event align very closely with the Community Cohesion theme. The majority of the budget will be spent on the production of a film and the organisation has made a clear case for how the film is integral to the event and that it will promote understanding between communities and foster a sense of local pride. The organisation has also evidenced how the film will be used beyond the life of the project through sharing it with local schools. A reduced grant amount has been recommended in line with what has previously been awarded for events.	3,500
23	Weavers Adventure Playground Association	Cooking with Culture	The organisation is proposing to organise three events which will take place during the summer period and engage 25 parents and 75 children. Activities at the events will include a food festival during which children and their parents will cook using different methods, a communal meal, traditional music and dance from different cultures and the opportunity for parents to share their experience of living in Tower Hamlets with others. Each event will last for four hours and will be hosted at the	The activities clearly align with the priorities and outcomes of the Community Cohesion theme. However, a reduced grant amount has been recommended in line with what has previously been awarded for events. Also ,the project budget submitted by the organisation included £9,665 to employ two full-time Community Play Workers for	3,500

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			adventure playground.	11 weeks. This seems to be excessive and the reduced amount has also been recommended in light of this.	
24	The Oitij-jo Collective	TATI Textiles	The organisation is proposing to deliver a six-week programme of textile skills training for Bangladeshi women. There will be 10 sessions in total and the course will involve four weeks of screen printing workshops, two weeks of sewing workshops and there will be the opportunity to exhibit and sell the finished creations. Recruitment of participants will be done via advertising on social media, flyers and word of mouth.	The application was assessed and is being funded by Locality	5,000
				TOTAL	57,427

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Access and Participation Theme

No.	Organisation	Project Name	Project Description	Comments	Grant
1	Wapping Bangladesh Association	Community Information Access	The organisation is proposing to deliver a programme of digital and online skills training to enable local residents to access and trust online services provided by organisations such as the council, NHS and HMRC. The project will comprise of two stages, firstly three cohorts of 10 people will take part in a four-session course teaching basic computer and internet skills, how to create an email address and how to access and navigate public services online. After participants have completed the course, the organisation will offer a weekly three-hour long drop-in session for residents to review their knowledge and practice their skills.	The proposal is clearly articulated and has been submitted by a BAME led organisation well placed to deliver for the local community. The activities align closely with the theme priorities and outcomes.	4,916
2	Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association	IoD Bangladeshi Residents Club	The organisation is applying for funding to continue to deliver their support services to the Bangladeshi community. Three times a week sessions will be held which include the provision of general information, support with health issues, legal advice and accompaniment to appointments. Once a week open days including keep fit sessions, refreshments and opportunities to socialise will be hosted. There will also be separate sessions for women held once a month and a programme of day trips and events throughout the summer holidays.	The application was originally submitted under the Older People's Support Services theme but it is more relevant to this theme. Most of the activities proposed align closely with the priorities and outcomes. However, the grant should contribute to the staff, volunteer and overhead costs but should not be used for day trips.	5,000
3	Hornafrik Integration Projects	BME Bridging Project	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a project designed to reduce the barriers to accessing mainstream support services for Somali and other BAME residents in the Poplar, Blackwall, Canary Wharf and Island Gardens wards. The project will focus on signposting to services supporting residents to improve their English and to access employment and training opportunities. The organisation will use existing links with other groups and local schools to recruit participants and target those in most need of support. Trained volunteers will conduct three hours of outreach sessions a week visiting such organisations and will provide support in small groups or to individuals. There will also be quarterly workshops at which community members will be invited to identify gaps in provision and inform the future of the project.	The organisation has evidenced it has links with the relevant local organisations and is well placed to provide a referral gateway to those who may otherwise face barriers to accessing support services. For this reason it aligns well the priorities and outcomes of the theme.	5,000
				TOTAL	14,916

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Loneliness Theme

No.	Organisation	Project Name	Project Description	Comments	Grant
1	Neighbours In Poplar	Loneliness	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a year-long programme of activities designed to compliment existing outreach work they are undertaking with older, vulnerable and disabled residents. As a result of the outreach, a number of activities to combat loneliness have been identified and they will be delivered through one session a week at three separate venues: a portacabin in Limehouse, a Tower Hamlets Homes centre in Wapping and an undecided venue in Shadwell. The activities will include arts and crafts, yoga, other exercise and IT sessions including a buddy system. The organisation expects to reach 80 beneficiaries throughout the course of the project.	The organisation has a strong track record of delivering support services of this kind and the activities outlined in the application closely align with the priorities and outcomes of the theme. The plan for the project has been developed in consultation with the target group as part of the groups existing outreach work	4,680
2	Wapping Bangladesh Association	Wapping's Mums Club	The organisation is applying for funding to organise a user-led club for 25 lonely and isolated Bangladeshi and BAME mothers. The club will provide a safe environment to socialise, talk and build peer support networks. A range of activities have been designed in consultation with local mothers and they will encourage the building of relationships between participants. This will include coffee mornings, arts and crafts, exercise and music. Sessions will take place twice a week during school term time and there will also be a coping skills workshop once a month and a pampering session once a term. Participants will be recruited through the organisations existing participants, social media advertising, outreach on local estates and flyers.	The proposal is very well articulated and the user-led project targets a group at high risk of isolation and loneliness. The planned activities have been developed in consultation with target group and closely align with the theme priorities and outcomes.	5,000
3	Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Girls Youth Group	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a programme of activities for 30 young Somali women aged 11 to 19. Drop-in sessions will take place for three hours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at Teviot Community Hall and will provide the opportunity to socialise in a culturally appropriate environment. Activities will include arts and crafts, healthy eating sessions, higher education workshops and intergenerational Somali dancing.	The group originally applied under the Community Cohesion Theme. However, the application makes a clear case that the target group are at particular risk of loneliness and isolation and that the project would achieve a number of relevant outcomes	5,000

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4	Blossom Project	Blossom Together	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a project engaging 40 local people over the course of a year and building on the weekly intergenerational coffee morning they currently organise. Outreach to other community groups, doctors surgeries and cultural centres will be conducted in order to establish referral pathways. The programme of activities has been codesigned with local residents and existing service users and this will include weekly sessions including topical discussions on a variety of subjects, walking and exercise, and arts and crafts. Gardening will also be included on a seasonal basis and employability support will be offered twice a quarter to those expressing an interest in a career in community work . Two trips will also be organised as part of the project.	The organisation has demonstrated that the programme has been developed in consultation with local people and has proposed a clear plan for targeting those at risk of loneliness. The activities are varied and the majority align closely with the priorities and outcomes of the fund.	4,986
5	Individual Application - Shahnaz Rifat	Mindful Mothers Project	The individual is applying for funding to deliver a programme of support for 20 expectant and new mothers. The project will provide a safe space for mothers to share their thoughts and feelings and sessions will take place on a fortnightly basis. The activities will alternate between a talking group at which participants will discuss stress management and overcoming isolation and a walking group which will encourage physical activity and healthy behaviours. The group will meet at John Smith Children's Centre and walks will take place at local parks.	The individual has developed the project in response to needs identified when supporting the group in a 1-2-1 setting. The activities align well with the them priorities and outcomes. Social Action for Health has been identified as an accountable body and has provided confirmation of this.	1,000
6	Individual Application - Abdul Rawkib	Chai Club	The individual is proposing to deliver a series of eight community tea mornings for 15 elderly Bangladeshi women in the Bethnal Green area. Sessions will last for one hour and will provide the opportunity for networking and structured activities such as mindfulness, health advice, art and dance will also be included. Six out of the eight sessions will be delivered with the help of external professionals who will give short talks of 15 minutes and volunteers will also support the delivery.	The group has demonstrated that the project has been developed in response to a gap in provision in the Bethnal Green area and the sessions target a group at particular risk of loneliness. There is a focus on using the proposed activities to facilitate socialising and relationship building has and consequently the project aligns well with the theme priorities and outcomes. Social Action for Health has been identified as an accountable body and has provided confirmation of this.	1,000

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7	BowHaven	Operation Loneliness	<p>The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a varied programme providing support and opportunities for local residents to connect in a number of settings. The project will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six meet-ups in Victoria Park and other public places including music, arts and crafts and other outdoor activities. • The creation of a communal art project in the park to give participants the chance to represent loneliness using physical materials and audio-visual techniques. • An online platform hosted on the BowHaven website featuring videos of people talking about their own experience of loneliness. • A weekly online meeting space, supported by BowHaven staff members, where people can drop in and socialise in a less pressurised setting. 	The project was assessed and is being funded by Locality	5,000
				TOTAL	26,666

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Community Support Services for Older People Theme

	Organisation Name	Project Name	Summary of Request	Comments	Grant
1	Somali Senior Citizens Club	Somali Elders Lunch Club & Community Engagement Project	The organisation is proposing to continue delivering a lunch club for Somali elders, taking place five days a week for 48 weeks throughout the year. Sessions will take place between 1-3 at Granby Hall. As well as receiving a freshly prepared meal, participants will be encouraged to socialise, and staff will refer them to other support services provided by the organisation such as welfare advice and support with health issues.	A well put together application by an organisation with a strong track record of delivery and clear connection to the community it serves. The organisation has made a clear case as to how the delivery of this service aligns with the priorities and outcomes of the fund. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	12,770
2	Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Elderly Lunch Club	The organisation is applying for funding to continue delivering a lunch club for local Somali women aged 55 and over. Sessions will take place 10-2 Monday to Thursday and at Teviot Community Hall. Sessions will provide a chance to socialise, gain access to support services, learn healthy recipes and take part in traditional Somali dance classes. Additionally, an advice worker employed at the centre will give advice on issues such as benefits, rent and utilities.	The application is very clear, and the organisation is proposing to continue delivering a service which has historically been supported by the Council. The activities align closely with the theme priorities and outcomes and the project is supported by volunteers and financial contributions from beneficiaries. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	12,770
3	Wapping Bangladesh Association	The Older People's Friendship Club	The organisation is proposing to deliver an Older People's Friendship Club with the intention of helping them stay active and mentally healthy. The project has been developed through consultation and will offer a variety of activities which will take place at sessions held three times a week, from 11-4. Activities include socialising, a variety of cultural activities, information and advice on healthy diets, cooking and the provision of a light lunch and refreshments, physical activities such as walking, chair exercises and complementary therapies and confidence building activities	The organisation has put forward a clear plan of activities and has provided good detail on its track record of working with the target group, including outputs in 2018-19. There is also demonstrable alignment between the activities proposed and the theme priorities and outcomes. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	12,770

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			supported by volunteers		
4	Dorset Community Association	Dorset Older People Lunch Club	The organisation is proposing to provide a weekly lunch club for residents aged 50+ in the North West of the borough. Participants will be at risk of social isolation or losing their independence and two five-hour sessions will be delivered each week: one for 20 men and one for 20 women. The lunch clubs will include socialising, cooked meals and advice and guidance. Structured sessions on healthy cooking and exercise and social events to mark holidays such as Christmas and Eid will be organised.	The organisation is currently supported by the Council to deliver the lunch club. The activities align with the theme priorities and the organisation has set clear and realistic targets for the outcomes of the project. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints and this has been calculated by reducing the cost of refreshments from £4 a head per week to £1 per head.	10,610
5	The Ensign Youth Club	UNITY Project	The organisation is applying for funding to continue to deliver their UNITY project for Bangladeshi and Somali older people. Coffee and lunch club sessions will take place three times a week at the centre and this will run for 45 weeks. Additional activities will also be included as part of the project and include health eating workshops held once a month for 10 people, self-management of chronic illness workshops held every six weeks for 10 people, ongoing advice, guidance and signposting and translation sessions held once a month for 10 people looking at TV and newspapers	The organisation's proposal involves the continuation of a project providing a varied programme of support addressing health issues and isolation. The project plan clearly aligns with the theme priorities and outcomes. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	12,770

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6	Weavers Community Forum	Weavers Health Project	The organisation is proposing to deliver a programme of health support for older BAME women. Sessions will take place for 2 hours each on Mondays and Thursdays. The project will run for 45 weeks. General activities will include light exercise such as yoga as well as the provision of coffee and refreshments. Additional activities include health eating workshops held once a month, self-management of chronic illness workshops held every six weeks, ongoing advice, guidance and signposting and translation sessions held once a month looking at TV and newspapers	The project plan clearly aligns with the theme priorities and outcomes and primarily involves health and wellbeing related activities, with time for socialising as well. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	12,770
7	Hornafrik Integration Projects	E14 BME Senior Citizen Project	The organisation is seeking funding to deliver a project for BME elderly residents in E14, participants will predominantly be from a Somali background and live in the Phoenix Court and Mast House Terrace. The project will be hosted within Phoenix Court and at The Reach Community Hub, with travel provided. The organisation will host weekly four-hour sessions with a mixture of time to socialise and advice sessions on subjects such as benefit entitlements and health issues. Two healthy eating workshops a month will also be arranged.	The application specifies a well defined target group and it is clear that the organisation has experience of working with this community and knowledge of the issues they face. The activities align well with the theme priorities and outcomes and travel will be provided to reduce barriers to taking part. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	12,770
8	The Bangladesh Youth Movement	Golden Years	The organisation is proposing to deliver a one-year pilot programme targeted at older women living in Whitechapel, who are experiencing issues such as health problems, financial hardship and isolation. Between 30 and 40 individuals are expected to benefit throughout the year and bi-weekly activities will include trips and celebratory events, surgeries with health professionals, healthy eating and exercise sessions, and advice on welfare benefits and money management. The project will involve the training of volunteers to befriend and conduct home visits with local older people and an Elders Forum will be established to allow participants to input into the direction of the project.	Although the project is new, the organisation has experience of running something similar in the past and have delivered a range of support services for local older people. The activities align well with the theme priorities and outcomes and the plan notably includes an elder's forum and befriending service, supported by volunteers. A reduced grant offer has been recommended due to budgetary constraints.	12,770
				TOTAL	100,000

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LB Tower Hamlets VCS Small Grants Programme**Small Grant Theme: Covid-19 Test and Trace Outreach and Engagement****Improving the uptake of Test and Trace in the community**

Tower Hamlets Public Health and partner teams and organisations plan to keep Tower Hamlets safe by coproducing a culturally sensitive and responsive approach that enables our communities to proactively engage with NHS Test and Trace.

Our engagement plan is focussed on NHS Test and Trace programme. It is designed to marry data on the success (or otherwise) of all aspects of NHS Test and Trace in Tower Hamlets with local intelligence on the messages and the way they are delivered that may make a difference.

We have generated a set of proposals around different modes of engagement and different supporting materials.

A literature review was conducted to ascertain which population groups are likely to be (i) disproportionately affected by coronavirus, and (ii) more likely to experience difficulties in adherence to NHS Test and Trace requirements. Alongside a pan-London community mapping exercise, and a Tower Hamlets community impact assessment, this generated a list of priority communities for engagement.

A perceptions survey has been commissioned to understand community-wide perspectives of the NHS Test and Trace programme so that we can understand more representative perspectives, which can provide a helpful counterpoint from which specific communities may differ. Healthwatch have also been applying their repository to collate relevant insights from their research activities.

Initial and repeated feedback has indicated that people are more likely to engage with NHS Test and Trace if they hear information from a trusted source, and there is a proactive offer of support.

A small pot of funding (in the region of £30K) will be made for community groups and members to apply for grants to support the dissemination of key messages. The nature and process of the grants fund will be developed once the other mechanisms of engagement described here have been established to ensure it is targeted for maximum added value.

The Public Health Healthy Communities Team has oversight of the programme of community engagement, ensuring appropriate and sufficient coverage of high-risk groups across all activity and maintaining professional input into the public health messages being shared.

A reporting tool will capture the calendar of activities and, for monitoring purposes, map the target community groups against sessions completed and attendees, forward planned dates, RAG rating of penetration in community and acceptability of messages with notes to explain.

Through the small grants we want to encourage local actions that help people to support

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the dissemination of key messages around Test and Trace. We are particularly interested in small local actions that make a difference to people at the high-risk of not engaging. To support this, small grants are available up to £1,000 which can be accessed by people without an established group, although you will need to identify an “accountable body” that will support you by holding the funds for you.

We will also support larger grants up to £3,000 if you can show how it will make a difference in a neighbourhood or to a wider group of people as well as being innovative.

Funding can be used flexibly but is primarily intended to cover revenue costs. Funds can be used to fund a whole project or to pay for elements of a wider project there must be a quantifiable contribution to the proposed activity either in cash (other funding) or in kind (volunteer time, rent free premises etc). However, we do not require match funding

The total budget for this theme is £30,000. We anticipate that this theme will fund 10 to 20 projects with a range of annual funding levels up to a maximum of £3,000 per annum.

Tower Hamlets Plan and Strategic Plan Priorities

C1	Strong, resilient and safe communities	√
C2	Better health and wellbeing	√
C3	Good jobs and employment	√
C4	A better deal for young people	√
S1	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities	√
S2	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in	√
S3	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough	

Theme priorities (Links to Outbreak Control Plan)

1. Innovative community engagement and information dissemination around Test and Trace
2. Projects and activities that address the PHE disparity report and target groups most at risk of the impacts of Covid-19

Theme outcomes

1. People are aware of NHS Test and Trace and are willing to engage
2. People are able to identify symptoms of Covid-19 and self-isolate
3. People take a test in a timely way
4. People with a positive test for Covid-19 are all promptly followed up as part of test and trace
5. All contacts are contactable
6. All contacts respond to test and trace follow up promptly
7. All contacts self-isolate for 14 days (unless they test positive, from which time they self-isolate for 10 days)

Examples of projects and activities

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Some examples of the type of activities we would support (but don't be limited by this list as we are looking for creative proposals that we might not have thought of!)

- Posters or leaflet dissemination
- Materials to promote Test and Trace in neighbourhoods
- Other projects that contribute to the outcomes above

Eligibility

1. Size of organisation

We welcome applications from small local organisations including from informal/unconstituted groups for grants up to £1,000. We also welcome applications from established community groups for grants up to £3,000.

Organisations with an annual turnover in excess of £250,000 are not eligible to apply to the Small Grants Programme

Individuals are not eligible but small grants are available up to £1,000 which can be accessed by people without an established group, although you will need to identify an "accountable body" that will support you by holding the funds for you.

2. Not for Profit

The grants programme will only support activities run by groups which can demonstrate they are set up as not for profit groups. The types of organisation which the Council considers to be not for profit is set out in the VCS Strategy and included in the TH Grants Policy framework at.

3. Locally based

The grants programme is intended to support the local VCS and community activity. The eligibility criteria for all grant themes reflects this principle. Organisations based outside the borough are not excluded from eligibility, but they must show very clear connections to Tower Hamlets either through existing activity or local leadership of the proposed project. Applications will be encouraged from organisations based across the borough.

4. Good governance

Organisations will be expected to achieve an acceptable level of governance with appropriate policies for the activities they propose to undertake. The acceptable level will be proportionate to the size of organisation and type of activity. The Council will accept applications from organisations in the process of developing appropriate policies, but funding will not be paid until they are in place.

5. Other criteria

We are keen to support grant applications under £1,000 from informal or unconstituted groups but these should be supported by an organisation with appropriate levels of governance which will act as the 'accountable body' for any funds awarded.

Levels of Funding Available

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1. Up to £3,000 for projects

The total budget for this theme is £30,000. We anticipate that this theme will fund 10 to 20 projects with a range of funding levels

Monitoring arrangements

1. Three monthly progress report and annual/end of project report and visit.
2. Data will be cross referenced with borough wide take up rates of Test and Trace.

INNOVATION FUND awards made since the last meeting of the GDCSC

Innovation Fund Awards

No.	Organisation Name	Project	Comments	Amount awarded
1	Bow Food Bank	Help Bow Food Bank feed the community	<p>The Bow Food Bank campaign has only been live for 4 days and they have had a great start. This project is central in dealing with the current Covid 19 crisis and has instilled a tremendous amount of online and local support.</p> <p>They have still managed to raise a great campaign and have been active on social media with local Cllr's endorsing and supporting the project.</p> <p>The average size of pledge is £87 with 45 backers raising a total of; £3,947, the food bank has been instrumental in feeding local residents that are vulnerable and most in need in the borough.</p> <p>The PDM has worked with a number of internal and external partners in raising the profile of this project which reaches the most in need in Tower Hamlets.</p>	£2,348
2	First Love Foundation	Food for Tower Hamlets	<p>The Food For Tower Hamlet's Project campaign has been live one week and has so far had £987 pledged to the project.</p> <p>This project is central in dealing with the current Covid 19 crisis and has instilled a tremendous amount of online and local support. Working with the vulnerable local residents since 2010, the First Food Love quickly responded to the needs of the local community by raising funds to ensure the food bank is able to respond to their regular and increased demand for food particularly residents that are in the priority group and therefore Socially Isolating.</p> <p>The food bank has a bank of volunteers and is active in the Borough; unfortunately where they have scored low on the assessment is only due to the lack of social media presence, in the current climate is very difficult for the pdm to raise the profile on social media.</p> <p>The average size of pledge is £98 with 10 backers raising a total of; £987, the food bank has been instrumental in feeding local residents that are vulnerable and most in need in the borough.</p>	£5,000

INNOVATION FUND awards made since the last meeting of the GDCSC

No.	Organisation Name	Project	Comments	Amount awarded
			The PDM has worked with a number of internal and external partners in raising the profile of this project which reaches the most in need in Tower Hamlets.	
3	Roman Road Trust	Transform the Common Room - Roman Road	<p>Transform the common room is a strong campaign with a large following and support from the community in seeing it come to fruition. The PDM has clearly set out the vision and journey for this project, ensuring social media messaging is active and public messaging retains momentum in raising the profile of the campaign and reaching its crowdfunding target.</p> <p>Project – Transform the Common Room is raising funds to overhaul and rebuild its current building for turning it into a multi-use cultural facility for local people. The space can be used for educational programmes, cultural initiatives or events. The project lists a number of theses that it will take beneficiaries through that access and use the common room space such as; Sustaining healthy High Streets and community organising for local groups.</p> <p>Public Profile – The campaign was featured on ‘Love East’ raising the profile of the campaign with links to their project page on Spacehive. on the 26th April the project was picked up due to the social media content and profile publicised by the organisation. The project has a number of followers and likes on their project page as well as comments on their campaign</p> <p>Covid-19 Spec – Transform the Common Room is a project of three parts; i) the build of a permanent structure, ii) the development of a programme of cultural learning, iii) the delivery of learning programmes. Construction is currently scheduled to take place from August 2020 - April 2021 meaning the project will be in its construction phase during the time of highest risk from COVID-19.</p> <p>The Common Room will be open and ready for use in May 2021.</p> <p>Roman Road Trust understands that adhering to social distancing measures, as outlined by the government, is paramount. Work will be prioritised to ensure that social distancing measures are followed by all volunteers, partners, contractors, and freelancers for as long as recommended by the government.</p>	£9,860

INNOVATION FUND awards made since the last meeting of the GDCSC

No.	Organisation Name	Project	Comments	Amount awarded
4	British Bangladesh Fashion Council	Fashion and Creative Hub	<p>The application meets the criteria – is fundraising on Spacehive, has hit 15% target and is a not-for-profit organisation (ltd company with no share capital_</p> <p>Has many individual pledges and has been supported by the Mayor of London fund. Meets the aim of the Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan by helping residents, particularly BME women and young people, to gain skills in the creative industries including fashion, hair and beauty, film making and others.</p>	£10,000
5	Numbi Arts	The Somali Museum	<p>Numbi Arts have demonstrated their resolve in making this campaign successful, initially they set up a project early in the year and was unsuccessful. The group were invited to attend specialist workshops organised at targeting BAME VCS organisations and previously funded MSG groups to partake in a bespoke training organised by TH and delivered by Spacehive. This was to encourage smaller/ hard to reach groups to explore crowdfunding as a source of funding for project activities particularly innovative streams of work for the sector.</p> <p>This project is to open the very first Somali Museum in Tower Hamlets, with a large array of artwork curated and collected over the years Numbi Arts need financial support to help secure a temporary location, deliver workshops and to cover the museums over heads.</p> <p>The museum will be open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday these opening hours will allow the organisation to accommodate school groups as well as Family learning sessions on the weekend. There will also be structured heritage walks organised in the borough allowing local residents to learn the local history of the community. There will be 12 workshops in total per year.</p> <p>Numbi arts have taken all the advice and have applied it to deliver a great project with lot's of local support. The organisation also have an email of support from the director of communities and neighbourhoods at Poplar HARCA - Babu Bhattacharjee, who has provided the organisation with options and help moving on to a more suitable commercial premises after the first year of delivery.</p>	£5,141
			TOTAL	£32,349

CONTINGENCY FUND awards made since the last meeting of the GDCSC**Emergency**

None since last report to GDCSC

Transition

No.	Organisation Name	Summary of Request	Amount awarded
1	Green Candle Dance Company	Bridge funding for organisation's core costs needed to support projects and fundraising	£7,725
2	Rooted Forum	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£19,096
3	Udichi Shilpi Gostthi	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£3,750
4	Vallance	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£12,810
5	Weavers Adventure Playground Association	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of major Lottery funding bid	£5,100
6	Pollyanna	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£4,687
7	Attlee Youth and Community Centre	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£5,576
8	Shadwell Community Project	Bridge funding for core staff pending outcome of fundraising	£10,443
	TOTAL		£69,187

Covid 19 Support

No awards to date

RENT RELIEF

Community and Faith Groups Awarded Rent Relief

Lessee/Organisation	Rent Relief 1 April to 30 June 2020
Community and faith groups	
Bishop's Way Community Centre (UK)	£4,063
Bowhaven	£2,750
Breakthrough (Deaf-Hearing Integration)	£2,875
Docklands Community Organisation	£16,250
Dorset Community Association	£2,500
Ensign Youth Club,	£100
Globe Town Mosque and Cultural Centre	£6,375
Legal Advice Centre (University House),	£5,750
Limehouse Project Ltd	£1,420
Limehouse Town Hall Consortium Trust	£2,500
Osmani Trust	£28,625
Redcoat Community Centre,	£1,750
Stifford Centre Ltd	£6,113
Turners and Locksley TRA	£2,500
Wapping Bangladesh Association	£3,500
Wapping Bangladeshi Association	£2,625
Weavers Community Forum	£1,000
Working Well Trust	£3,000
	£93,696