

| Agenda Item | Item Name + Ward Impacted | Summary of item | Questions from Cllrs + Potential Key Lines of Enquiry | Response |
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| 6.1 | <p>MSG Project Performance Report – October 19 to March 20</p> <p>All Wards</p> | <p>The Mainstream Grant (MSG) 2015/18 Programme was approved by the Commissioners on 29 July 2015 and was initially expected to be delivered from 1st September 2015 through to 31st August 2018. Further extensions to the programme until 30th September 2019 were agreed at GDSC. As part of the transitional arrangements following the move to the Local Community Fund it was later agreed to continue to fund some MSG projects in the Community Languages and Lunch Club strands. This was at the same level of funding under the council's mainstream grants programme (MSG) for a period of six months from 1st October 2019 to 31st March 2020.</p> <p>This is a final noting report, that outlines the projects that have been delivered during this period October 2019-March 2020, particularly those delivered before COVID-19 peaked in the UK.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the 7 organisations intended to be put on the MSG Rent Subsidy scheme, is it only one that took part in the scheme? • How many organisations do you expect to take part in the Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme? • Is it a temporary scheme? If so, what will replace it? | <p>The MSG Rent Subsidy scheme was a temporary measure put in place while the Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme was being developed and it was to ensure the MSG funded organisations were not met with a large rent increase when agreeing a new lease. The scheme was in place while the MSG programme was running and a lease needed to be agreed and rent invoices raised and sent to organisations before the MSG Rent Subsidy was paid. Only Stifford Centre and Our Base had rent invoices raised and Our Base subsequently shut down operations when MSG came to an end.</p> <p>The Community Benefit Rent Reduction scheme is a permanent scheme which, subject to eligibility criteria, will benefit VCS organisations that lease premises from the council. The 80% rent reduction is intended to acknowledge the benefit to local residents of activities run by these organisations from our premises where the cost of</p> |

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| | | | | <p>rent is not met by other funding from the council. CBRR is only paid after an eligible organisation has completed a new lease with the council. To date, one organisation is in receipt of CBRR, ten further organisations have approved CBRR and are awaiting completion of their leases before payment commences and we anticipate that a further 10-15 organisations may seek CBRR when they move to formal lease arrangements.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a report on Council premises leases to VCS organisations will be presented to Cabinet in November which will include further information about the CBRR scheme and respond to the issues raised by the Scrutiny Challenge session held in November 2019.</p> |
| 6.2 | <p>VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority</p> <p>All Wards</p> | <p>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. Including the small grants programme, innovation fund, contingency fund, the community benefit rent reduction scheme, and rent relief (the Mayor made an</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What period of funding does this report cover? • Does this report indicate all the grants awarded to VCS organisations during this period? | <p>This report is a regular item on the GDCSC Agenda and each report covers the period since the last GDCSC meeting. The report presented to the meeting on 9 September covers the period from the end of February 2020 to the end of August 2020.</p> |

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| | | Individual Mayoral Decision to award rent relief to support local community based organisations during the Covid-19 pandemic). | | The report includes all VCS grants programmes where decisions are made under delegated powers either by officers or, in the case of the small grants programme, the East End Community Foundation. |
| 6.3 | <p>Local Community Fund (LCF) Project Performance and Update Report – October 2019 – March 2020</p> <p>All Wards</p> | <p>The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31st July 2019 to a programme of funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1st October 2019. A total of 50 projects were awarded funding totalling £9.31m up to 31 March 2023 to deliver activity across five themes – Inclusion Health and Wellbeing, Digital Inclusion and Awareness, Information Advice and Guidance, Employment and Skills, Community Safety.</p> <p>This report provides a performance update for the period covering October 2019 to March 2020 on the 50 projects that were awarded funding. Of the 50 projects, 48 are rated Green, 1 Amber and 1 Red.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we identify the impact of COVID-19 on project delivery? • Both Real DPO and Hestia Housing and Support have not met their targets. Considering any impact of the pandemic, do we plan to keep paying them? • Are there any other funds these organisations not on the LCF can go under? | <p>Grant Officers are working with LCF organisations to support them with project delivery and the impact of Covid-19. An Annual Report covering Oct 19 – Sep 20 will be submitted in October and plans for the next 12 months should also be agreed at this time. This will help identify the impact of Covid-19 on delivery and whether the original aims of the project can be achieved to the same extent going forward.</p> <p>All projects had an impact on achieving targets due to Covid-19. Real DPO and Hestia Housing were not rated Green for specific issues:</p> <p>Real DPO – not submitting a signed funding agreement and partnership agreement – both documents have now been submitted</p> <p>Hestia Housing – did not submit the</p> |

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| | | | | <p>first two monitoring returns and there was a question of what was achieved in that period. A meeting with the organisation has now happened to go through the activity on the project.</p> <p>In both these cases it was more of a project management issue than a delivery issue and now this has been resolved payments can now take place.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19 impacting on the programme no projects have had funding withheld for not meeting targets over this period.</p> |
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