

Agenda Item	Item Name + Ward Impacted	Summary of item	Questions from Cllrs + Potential Key Lines of Enquiry	Response
7.1	<b>Credit Union Grant Proposal</b> <b>26.11.2020</b> <b>All Wards</b>	<p>LCCU exists to <b><i>Improve financial resilience and reduce poverty within our community</i></b> by encouraging people to save, giving access to safe and affordable credit as well as providing banking solutions to those excluded by traditional banks. Due to the impacts of the pandemic, it is likely that more residents will need a method of accessing affordable finance. In order to continue to make loans, the Credit Union needs a grant to increase the amount of money it holds in reserves.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “LCCU Annual Report 2018-19” highlights on page 10 that credit union mistakenly paid £85k into wrong account and money was illegally retained. Is there any information on how much money was reclaimed back (not evidenced in Annual Report 2018-19)?</li> <li>• What assurances can be given by LCCU to ensure that the appropriate control measures are in place for the above not to happen again?</li> <li>• What assurances are in place from LCCU to ensure that £100k grant translates in more support for TH residents? Do we know how much grant funding Hackney and Newham are providing?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £11k was reclaimed from Santander. All possible steps were taken to recover members’ money including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Criminal inquiry – Met Police have charged one member of the public who is due to go on trial in 2021.</li> <li>2. Santander – the bank facilitated a small recovery (above) but, following considerable delays, rejected LCCU’s complaint.</li> <li>3. Business Banking Resolution Service – initial feedback is that LCCU is ineligible to lodge a complaint due to its size. However the newly-established BBRS is in a pilot phase and suggested LCCU complete a Registration of Interest, which has been carried out. They are outside the scope of the FOS for SMEs.</li> <li>4. Insurance – LCCU’s claim was rejected because staff sent the payment outside the credit union in</li> </ol> </li> </ul>

				<p>error rather than with criminal intent.</p> <p>5. Litigation – LCCU obtained legal advice that there was no case to pursue Santander owing to the lack of “clear legal duties” owed to the credit union.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reports into the loss were carried out for the CEO and board by the following: finance manager; HR manager; and the internal auditor.</li></ul> <p>2. The staff involved in the original error were subject to management review and training. Staff who approve FPS (Faster Payments Service) transactions also received training.</p> <p>3. The process of FPS approvals has been reviewed and amended to reduce risk in high value transactions. All relevant staff received guidance before signing a declaration to confirm understanding of FPS controls</p>
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				<p>organisations can collaborate more closely.</p> <p>.</p> <p>.</p>
7.2	<p><b>Local Community Fund (LCF) Performance and Annual Report Update Oct 19 – Sep 20</b></p> <p><b>All Wards</b></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. The first year of the programme included the Covid-19 pandemic and organisations worked to support residents through this period. Projects have been RAG rated Green for performance with this rating taking account of these circumstances with all projects working towards achieving their outcome targets.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has there been any in year savings made from offsetting the physical delivery to virtual delivery (Covid-19) by projects? Has there been any underspends which is not in the Annual report for 2019-20?</li> <li>• What impact would there be on Age UK service users (residents) if funding is withheld until lease has been signed? Can they still deliver remotely? Has the project undertaken a risk analysis (low/medium/high) if funding is withheld?</li> <li>• How will you measure performance (benchmark year to year) if PI's change/or get adapted from a cost/benefit point of view?</li> </ul>	<p>As part of the support given by the Council to funded organisations due to the impact of Covid-19 it was agreed to continue to pay scheduled payments from April 2020 and that any underspends on project activity could be carried forward. Officers are supporting groups with their budget planning considering plans to do extra activity or deliver adapted services.</p> <p>At this stage there are no significant variations that result in reduction in funding.</p> <p>Funding would not be withheld lightly from projects. Age UK have had a waiver approved by GDSC to</p>

				<p>enable payments to continue from November 2019 despite not having a lease in place.</p> <p>It is being flagged now that this is a possibility so officers can work with the organisation to ensure the implications are understood and to inform future decision making.</p> <p>For the LCF programme overall project performance is assessed with a focus on achieving outcomes. The Performance Indicators need to be a useful way of measuring how successful the project is in achieving its aims and should be regularly reviewed.</p>
7.3	<p><b>VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority 26.11.2020</b></p> <p><b>All Wards</b></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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small Grants Programme Access and Participation Theme (Appendix A) indicates IoD Bangladeshi Association applied for £5K to deliver its original project objectives.</li> <li>• Has the £5K funding been solely used (as indicated</li> </ul>	<p>Our commitment in line with the London Funders Pledge which the Mayor has signed up to on behalf of the council is to continue to fund organisations provided they are able to deliver, albeit in an adapted way. This organisation has indicated</p>

			Appendix B)? Is there any underspend as a result of Covid-19 impact and reduced services?	they are still able to deliver their services e.g. over the phone rather than face to face whilst meeting the required outcomes of their project. Any elements not being delivered due to covid restrictions will be paused until restrictions have been lifted and it's safe to deliver their original plans.
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