

<p style="text-align: center;">Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee report</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1 September 2021</p>	
<p>Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director of Place</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Grant offer of £90,000 to Toynbee Hall for the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Eve McQuillan
Originating Officer(s)	Anna Zucchelli – Petticoat Lane High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Project Officer Michael Ritchie – Place Shaping Team Leader
Wards affected	Spitalfields & Banglatown
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	[Insert date notice was published]
Reason for Key Decision	Impact on Wards
Community Plan Theme	A Great Place to Live

Executive Summary

The High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme is a nationwide programme designed to secure lasting improvements to our historic high streets for the communities that use them. As part of this initiative, Historic England and partners have offered support and funding to local Cultural Consortia to develop a *Local Cultural Programme*. Following a grant application by Toynbee Hall, as the local Cultural Consortium lead for Petticoat Lane HSHAZ, £90,000 has been awarded by Historic England for the *Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme*. LBTH are required, under the grant conditions, to administer the funding and act as project assurance on behalf of Historic England. LBTH have already entered into a grant agreement with Historic England for this funding and now a third-party agreement between LBTH and Toynbee Hall is required.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Authorise the Corporate Director of Place to issue a third-party HSHAZ *Local Cultural Programme* agreement of £90,000 between LBTH and Toynbee Hall as the Cultural Consortium lead.
2. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into the grant agreement and any such other agreements required to affect the grant and the use of the grant as detailed in paragraph 1.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Toynbee Hall, as the Cultural Consortium lead, were successful in their application to Historic England for a *Local Cultural Programme Grant* of £90,000 in April 2021. It is a requirement of the grant that the local authority, as HSHAZ lead partner, administer the grant, monitor progress according to the Project Design and authorise and release payment. For this to happen, a third-party agreement between the Council and Toynbee Hall is required.
- 1.2 The *Local Cultural Programme Grant* is related to the £93,000 grant awarded to Toynbee Hall, following the Grants Determination Sub-Committee on 3 February 2021, to deliver community engagement and cultural activities as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) on Wentworth Street. This funding will be used by Toynbee Hall to form, lead manage a 'Community Decision Making Group', who will in turn collectively create, curate and deliver a Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) scheme on Wentworth Street.
- 1.3 The *Local Cultural Programme Grant* will cover the cost of a wide range of participatory community activities, cultural and training events, as part of the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme. The cultural programme will enable residents, businesses, academic institutions and visitors to have an enriched understanding of the value and role of heritage, beyond the end of the programme, and enable local communities feel a sense of ownership with the scheme.
- 1.4 The Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme aims to help drive up footfall on and around Wentworth Street and thereby support local businesses and therefore supports the objectives of the overall regeneration programme.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 If *Local Cultural Programme Grant* is not awarded to Toynbee Hall, then the funding must be returned to Historic England. The Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme may not be able to then go ahead unless other funding is found from other sources.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

High Street Heritage Action Zone

- 3.1 The High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) programme is a nationwide initiative designed to secure lasting improvements to 68 historic high streets for the communities who use them. Tower Hamlets Council was awarded £602,000 by Historic England in April 2020 for a programme of high street improvements in the Wentworth Street Conservation Area between April 2020 and March 2024.
- 3.2 The HSHAZ funding contributes towards capital work projects within the Middlesex Street Regeneration Programme (MSRP), being delivered by the High Streets & Town Centres team, as well as other projects being delivered by the Place Shaping team.
- 3.3 Toynbee Hall were brought on board from April 2021 to co-deliver the HSHAZ scheme over 3 years with community engagement and cultural activities as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) on Wentworth Street. A grant of £93,000 to Toynbee Hall was authorised at the Grants Determination Sub-Committee on 3 February 2021.
- 3.4 With this grant, Toynbee Hall will employ a Heritage Officer and Community Outreach Worker who will form, manage and lead a 'Community Decision-Making Group', who will collectively design, curate and deliver the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme. These officers will report to the We Speak Programme Manager.
- 3.5 The funding for the activities contained within Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme are from a separate funding scheme, the *Local Cultural Programme grant funding scheme* (see below).
- 3.6 The Community Manager and We Speak Programme Manager at Toynbee Hall have also produced a Community Engagement Plan for the HSHAZ programme, co-produced and in consultation with the local community.

Historic England Local Cultural Programme grant funding scheme

- 3.7 The aim of the HSHAZ programme is to make high streets a more attractive, engaging and vibrant place for people to live, work and spend time. Culture and creativity play a key role in this. In partnership with the Arts Council and the National Lottery

Heritage Fund, Historic England has offered support and *Local Cultural Programme* grant funding for the development and production of local cultural programmes and partnerships that will complement the work of individual HSHAZ schemes. The *Local Cultural Programme* grant funding is a separate from the main HSHAZ grant funding.

- 3.8 Cultural programmes supported by this funding are developed and delivered by Cultural Consortia and local communities in each place. The cultural activity celebrates the local character and heritage of the location and aim to make High Streets a key place to experience and participate in culture. Each cultural programme should enable the local community around the high street to be part of the programme – to create, encourage learning and local talent, build new skills and lead on activity which is taking place in their local area.
- 3.9 Each Cultural Programme takes place alongside the capital works project taking place on the high street and will act as a way for people to engage with that building and development work. The Cultural Programme also aligns closely with other planned community engagement activities in the area led on by the HSHAZ and the MSRP.

Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme

- 3.10 A Cultural Consortium of local community and cultural groups involved in and around the Wentworth Street Conservation Area was set up in September 2020. Organisations involved include Arts Admin, Whitechapel Gallery, Numbi Arts, Swadhinata Trust, Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, Raphael Samuel History Centre, London Metropolitan University, Tower Hamlets Archives and Aldgate Connect.
- 3.11 Toynbee Hall emerged as the lead member of the consortium and put together, in consultation with the group, an application to Historic England for *Local Cultural Programme* grant funding in December 2020 (see appendix 1). The bid was successful and notification of an award of grant of £90,000 was announced in April 2021 for a programme of delivery from April 2021 to March 2024.
- 3.12 The *Local Cultural Programme grant* funding will be used by a Community Decision-Making Group, made up of local stallholders, businesses, creatives and residents, to collectively design, curate and deliver a cultural programme of bi-monthly themed activities and 2-3 annual festivals.
- 3.13 This means that the Community Decision-Making Group will make decisions on which cultural events will happen on and around Wentworth Street and will allocate funding towards them, within certain parameters as set out by Toynbee Hall and agreed by the HSHAZ project officer and Historic England.
- 3.14 The Cultural Consortium will support the Community Decision-Making Group with training, mentoring, and skills-building. The *Local Cultural Programme grant* funding also covers the cost of training for the Community Decision-Making Group. In this way the Cultural Programme will be truly community led and intends to leave

a legacy of cultural curation within the community beyond the length of the HSHAZ programme.

- 3.15 In summary, the *Local Cultural Programme* grant funding of £90,000 will cover:
- Community Decision-Making Group meeting expenses
 - Cultural Consortium costs, including cost for attendance for smaller organisations
 - Skills development, training and coaching for Community Decision-Making Group by cultural professionals
 - Publicity, social media
 - Bi-monthly event costs, including fees to cultural professionals
 - 2-3 annual festival costs, including fees to cultural professionals

Administration of the Local Cultural Programme grant funding

- 3.16 A condition of the *Local Cultural Programme* grant funding is that it must be administered by the HSHAZ lead partner, usually the local authority, who will distribute the funding to Toynbee Hall following submission of a quarterly progress update and an updated risk and issues log. This reflects the organisation and process of the overall HSHAZ programme where the HSHAZ project officer within the local authority maintains fiscal oversight, monitoring and evaluating progress of projects to plan.
- 3.17 In addition to this, Historic England have a team of Cultural Programme officers who will provide technical advice and guidance to local cultural consortia. They have met with Toynbee Hall on several occasions to discuss the local cultural programme. Toynbee Hall's quarterly progress update and an updated risk and issues log will also be submitted to Historic England for review.
- 3.18 The Heritage Officer and Community Outreach Worker will report regularly to the We Speak Programme Manager and Community Manager at Toynbee Hall to ensure that there is continuity with the Cultural Programme and prevent any delays in delivering the project in the event of staff turnover.
- 3.19 For the funding to be released, two *Local Cultural Programme* grant funding agreements are required – one between LBTH and Historic England, and one between LBTH and Toynbee Hall. A grant agreement between LBTH and Historic England was signed by Jen Peters, DD Planning & Building Control, in May 2021 (see appendix 2). A third-party agreement is now required between LBTH and Toynbee Hall as lead member of the Cultural Consortium.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This project will allow engagement with a wide audience in the local area. Toynbee Hall is a grassroots community-led organisation with extensive community engagement and outreach experience. They have excellent connections and existing

networks with the local community around Wentworth Street and therefore can enable that all voices are heard. The Cultural Consortium will be able to provide further community connections, including those hard to reach and BAME.

- 4.2 This project will actively promote the involvement of local residents, businesses, students, etc. in deciding how local heritage is celebrated on the street. It will also provide understanding, knowledge and skills which will help protect the built environment beyond the duration of the programme.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Best Value

Toynbee Hall offer excellent value for money. They will be able to draw on their internal teams for outreach and consultation, event planning and support, comms, social media, fundraising and heritage learning & participation. As the funding for the grant comes from an external source, there are no cost implications to the Council. The Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme will be able to add to the current regeneration work in the area.

Risk management

Toynbee Hall are a charity with a long-standing presence in this location and have a proven track record of offering advice services, youth and older people's projects and financial inclusion work. They have over 10 members of staff. Over the three-years, the work plan will be monitored with quarterly reports expected from Toynbee Hall, as well as monthly meetings with the HSHAZ project officer. Reports will be submitted to Historic England for review. Historic England's Cultural Programming team are also available to provide support to Toynbee Hall and the Cultural Consortium.

Crime reduction

Increased activity on the street will reduce the opportunities for anti-social behaviour and crime. Improved appreciation and understanding of local heritage will result in buildings that are better cared for, resulting in reduction in enforcement action.

Safeguarding

Staff at Toynbee Hall is an organisation that requires its staff to have DBS checks and to comply with best practice in safeguarding and other applicable legislation.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 Toynbee Hall has been awarded a grant £90k from April 2021 to March 2024 from Historic England as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone grant funding scheme, and to develop a Local Cultural Programme. The council will act to administer the funding and act as project assurance on behalf of Historic England.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has no discretion as to the identity of the grant recipient as Historic England have mandated that the money is spent with Toynbee.
- 7.2 However, the way the funds are administered on this scheme is via the local authority. Therefore, the money is first given to the Council who then pay the money to Toynbee. This means that the expenditure is the Council's expenditure for the purposes of the law and is therefore subject to the Council's Best Value duty. It therefore follows that it accords with the Council's constitution that the delegation to make the requested grant falls with the Grants Determination Sub-Committee of cabinet.
- 7.3 The grant is subject to the Council's Best Value duty as it constitutes Council expenditure. The Council is acting in a quality monitoring capacity on behalf of Historic England and there will be a contractual agreement in place which reflects Historic England's requirements. Therefore, the Council will be able to ensure that the money is used for the purposes for which it is intended and there is sufficient quality of delivery in accordance with the original bid.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- Grant to Toynbee Hall to deliver community engagement activities and a cultural programme on Wentworth Street as part of the High Street Heritage Action Zone funded programme

Appendices

- Appendix 1: Local Cultural Programme grant application
- Appendix 2: Local Cultural Programme grant agreement_HE_LBTH

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Anna Zucchelli - anna.zucchelli@towerhamlets.gov.uk - 0207 364 6602