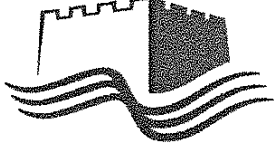


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| <p align="center"><b>Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma</b></p> <p align="center">Decision Log No: _____</p> |  <p align="center"><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p> |
| <p><b>Report of:</b> Corporate Director – Place (TBC)</p>  | <p><b>Classification:</b><br/>Unrestricted</p>   |
| <p>Thriving High Streets 4 (THS4) – Business Grant Project</p>   |  |

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| <b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>                            | No   |
| <b>Decision Notice Publication Date:</b>                  | (Report author to state date of decision notice – either individual notice or within the Forward Plan)   |
| <b>Urgency Notice published?</b>                          | Yes  |
| <b>Restrictions:</b>                                      | N/A  |
| <b>Reason for seeking an Individual Mayoral Decision:</b> | <p>Officers were due to present a report at the GDSC pre-meet on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – postponed to</li> <li>2. 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – postponed to</li> <li>3. 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – postponed to</li> <li>4. 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022</li> </ol> <p>Officers then attended the GDSC on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 where the mayor advised of his preference for the grants to be administered internally, as opposed to using a specialist external supplier.</p> <p>Following a period of review and further dialogue with the Mayor's Office, agreement was reached for the project to proceed using the specialist external supplier as originally conceived, but with some changes to the approach.</p> <p>Officers had been due to present a report at GDSC from 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023 onwards. However following postponement, the current date for the next available GDSC meeting is 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, having moved from:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to</li> <li>2. 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023 to</li> <li>3. 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023</li> </ol> <p>Having completed the preparatory stages including appointing a specialist external supplier and the development of the suite of documents required to support the distribution of the grants, officers seek an Individual Mayoral Decision to expedite the delivery of the project in advance of the next available GDSC meeting in October.</p> <p>While seeking to present the report at GDSC, during the intervening period officers have launched the business training and 20 businesses have completed the training as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cohort. These businesses are now ready to apply for the grant. In addition, applications for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cohort of training are now open until 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and there is a waiting list of businesses to participate in the programme.</p> <p>Any further delays will risk reputational damage to the Council because businesses will not be able to access the</p> |

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|  | <p>grant funding following completion of the training.</p> <p>Further delays may incur an increase to the project cost to continue to work with specialist external suppliers to deliver services over a longer period.</p> <p>Officers estimate the project is approximately 6 months behind schedule.</p> <p>The grants intended to be distributed are deemed 'low risk' with a maximum £1,000 per business. The total grant fund is £55,000.</p> |
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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This document seeks an Individual Mayoral Decision on the recommended delivery approach for the distribution of grants to high street businesses and will seek delegation for the Chief Executive Officer to approve the individual grants.

The recommended delivery approach will involve working with specialist external suppliers to:

1. Deliver tailored business support training
2. Provide an administrative service to distribute the grant funding

The distribution of the grants will be in line with initial eligibility and grant criteria.

## **DECISION**

The mayor is recommended to:

1. Delegate authority from the Grants Determination Sub Committee to the Chief Executive Officer to distribute grants to high street businesses. A noting report(s) will be brought to GDSC at an interim point and at the end of the programme confirming the grant beneficiaries and project outcomes.
2. To note the Equalities Impact Assessment considerations as set out in Section 4

**APPROVALS**

**1. (If applicable) Corporate Director proposing the decision or his/her deputy**

I approve the attached report and proposed decision above for submission to the Mayor. I confirm that the Mayor and/or Lead Member have agreed to this decision being taken using this process.

Signed Deive Cradley Date 24/8/23

**2. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

Signed [Signature] Date 23/08/23

**3. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy**

I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)  
I confirm that this decision:-  
(a) has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan OR  
(b) is urgent and subject to the 'General Exception' or 'Special Urgency' provision at paragraph 18 or 19 respectively of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Signed ..... [Signature] ..... Date 25/8/23

**4. Mayor**

I agree the decision proposed in the recommendations above for the reasons set out in paragraph XX in the attached report.

Signed [Signature] Date 18/09/23