


<b>Individual Mayoral Decision</b> 27 February 2014	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Corporate Strategy and Equality Louise Russell	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted
<b>One Tower Hamlets Fund</b>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Alibor Choudhury</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Tahir Alam and Frances Jones
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	A Prosperous Community/ A Safe and Cohesive Community/A Healthy and Supportive Community
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The council has once again made available the One Tower Hamlets Fund. This fund is available to local resident led organisations and resident groups to help us realise our One Tower Hamlets aspiration.
- 1.2 This year's fund is intended to support projects which bring together residents from different backgrounds to tackle the tricky issues which can undermine the quality of day-to-day life for people in the borough.
- 1.3 Successful groups or organisations will be able to demonstrate that their project:
- brings residents from different backgrounds together with service providers to tackle quality of life issues in their area
  - builds leadership within the community they are working in
- Full details of the criteria are in Appendix 2 to this report.

From the 2013 application process of the One Tower Hamlet Fund, 16 Applications have been received.

- 1.4 Details of applications received for which awards are proposed are summarised below in **Appendix 1**. Decisions on these applications are now required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to making grants available to successful organisations, to enable all applicants to be notified of the outcome of their applications, to enable the processing of Grant Agreements and for initial stage payments to be processed for successful applicants. No review process was provided for in the advertised scheme, given the low value of the awards.

## **2. Recommendations:**

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the proposed awards for One Tower Hamlets Fund totalling £53,819 as set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Authorise officers to issue Grant Agreements for the One Tower Hamlets Fund in line with established procedures to and implement the agreed payment and monitoring arrangements.

### **3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 3.1 The decisions on proposed grant allocations are required in order that the Council is able to meet its commitment to make available to local community organisations small grants of up to £7,000 through the One Tower Hamlets Fund.
- 3.2 Once the decisions have been made, organisations that have applied can be notified of the outcome of their applications and that payments can be initiated for applications that have been recommended for funding awards.

### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to decide not to fund any of the organisations who have applied for grants and to use the funds for other purposes, for example the larger types of project typically associated with Main Stream Grants.
- 4.2 However, because opportunities to apply for the One Tower Hamlets Fund have been widely advertised, expectations have been raised and to cancel these programmes after a number of organisations have submitted applications in good faith would lead to wide disappointment.

### **5. DETAILS OF REPORT**

- 5.1 Now in its fourth year the One Tower Hamlets Fund is designed to strengthen cohesion and community leadership at a grassroots level. In previous years the programme has supported projects in a range of areas, including: the role of schools in promoting cohesion, strengthening relationships between different communities and the development to neighbourhood agreements.
- 5.2 In 2012-13 in final evaluation of the projects concluded that:
- Projects brought real benefits for cohesion at a local level. Nearly all the projects were able to show improvement against the Council's cohesion criteria, and strong cohesion emphasis can lead to real improvements in building community relationships and breaking down barriers.
  - Community organisations welcomed the support they received to focus on cohesion concerns such as interaction across different communities and this gave them confidence to take more leadership in facilitating and managing difficult conversations.
  - The most successful projects used innovative strategies to break down barriers and came up with innovative and effective solutions to long standing problems gently challenge others' preconceptions, leading to increased understanding and improved relations between different groups, and across ethnic and age differences in particular.

Officers have assessed 16 applications for the One Tower Hamlets Fund. 8 applications have been considered as successful. These have gone through the agreed eligibility and assessment process and awards with a total value of £46,820 proposed against a total budget of £55,500.

- 5.3 A briefing on the applications was provided to the Mayor who supported the proposed grant awards. In addition he considered the DeafPlus project and concluded that the Deaf Plus project does meet three of the 'Getting Along Together' criteria:
- Tackling myths and rumours that harm cohesion
  - Engaging with hard to reach communities and
  - Encouraging participants for onward progression,
- With support for the project to meet the general criteria of the fund. He concluded that this project should therefore be funded.
- 5.4 Therefore the proposed grant allocation will value at £53,819 against the total of £55,500.
- 5.5 Were the proposed awards to be approved, an available budget of £1,181 would remain available in this fund.
- 5.6 Application details including the organisation name, amount requested, an outline description of the event/activities for which grant is requested, the proposed award and the related rationale are set out in Appendix 1.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER**

- 6.1 Financial implications of the recommendations under 2.1 and 2.2 above are detailed in 5.2 and 5.3 above. The allocation of £55,500 for the One Tower Hamlets Fund is provided for within the 2013/14 General Fund budgets.

## **7. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 7.1 The Council has various statutory powers, which enable it to provide grant funding to organisations to undertake a variety of activities including Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which gives the Council a general power of competence to anything that individuals generally may do unless specifically prohibited by law. This power may be used to support the giving of grants to community groups.
- 7.2 The current report deals with the award of new grant funding and the grant agreements will detail the agreed service levels. The Council will ensure it is complying with its duty under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 by monitoring these agreed service levels. The duty requires best value authorities, including the Council, to "make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness" ..

- 7.3 In exercising this power, the Council should have regard to its strategy set out in its Community Plan and to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who don't. Information is provided in the report which is relevant to these considerations.

## **8. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The contribution of Third Sector organisations to delivering One Tower Hamlets is explicitly recognised in the Council's Third Sector Strategy. Organisations play a key role in delivering services that address inequality, improve cohesion and increase community leadership: the deliveries of these services are real examples of 'One Tower Hamlets' in practice.
- 8.2 The opportunities offered through the One Tower Hamlets Fund play a key role in strengthening community cohesion at a local level and therefore delivering the aims of One Tower Hamlets.

## **9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 9.1 Aspects of the recommended projects for funding support the spirit of SAGE. The Council as a funder of third sector proposals that meet these priorities assists in the implementation of the strategic aims of SAGE along with its community and voluntary sector partners.

## **10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 A number of different risks arise from any funding of external organisations.
- 10.2 The key risks are:
- The funding may not be fully utilised i.e. allocations remain unspent or outcomes are not maximised;
  - The funding may be used for purposes that have not been agreed e.g. in the case of fraud;
  - The organisations may not be able to secure additional funding necessary to deliver the agreed activities;
  - The organisation may not have the capacity to achieve the outputs and outcomes required.

## **11. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The services that will be provided through these funding streams cover a broad spectrum of activities, some of which are key drivers in contributing to the reduction in crime and disorder, in particular, improving community cohesion.

## 12. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

12.1 The proposed funding priorities which are clearly linked to delivering outcomes as set out in the Strategic Plan and Community Plan will deliver better outcomes for local people within existing resources, through for example:

- Giving priority to organisations and schemes, that promote social inclusion by reducing social exclusion
- Supporting service providers who deliver cost effective services that benefit the local community and meet the needs of the area.

### Appendix 1: One Tower Hamlets Fund

One Tower Hamlets Fund					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
	<b>ST Matthias Community Centre</b> 113 Poplar High St, Poplar E14 OAE	<b>Peace Project</b> Project to bring various people together from various ethnic communities, with focus on the hard to reach Chinese community. To hold different faith celebration days and have an element of history of Blackwell Docks for local people to feel a sense of belonging and togetherness. Different partners are involved, archives, East India Company. Young people to be targeted and a leadership, conflict resolution and history and arts workshop to be incorporated within project.	7,000	7,000	Clear description of need for the project. Meets five of the Getting on Together criteria: - Enabling meaningful interaction between people from different backgrounds - Engagement with hard to reach communities and groups -Promoting a shared sense of belonging and pride -Development of community leaders -Development of joint working with other	

One Tower Hamlets Fund					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
					partners	
	<b>Ebrahim College</b> 80 Greenfield Road London E1 1EJ	<b>Meet the Muslims</b> Proposed project builds on an initiative the organisation has run across London and bring it local to enable local young people studying at the College to develop skills to engage in interfaith activities. The proposal is to build on this in Tower Hamlets and run monthly meetings and seminars for people from different faith backgrounds in the borough to promote inter-faith dialogue between people from different backgrounds and religious and non-religious groups and joint projects building on the positive relations built between themselves during the monthly meetings.	£6,820	£4820	The primary focus for the project relates strongly to two of the Getting on Together criteria: -Bringing people from different backgrounds together to develop meaningful interactions -Tackling the attitudes and beliefs which can lead on conflict.  The bid clearly outlines how the organisation will recruit people from different faith backgrounds to join the project.  The original bid included a contribution towards the cost of running conferences for a pan-London audience - it is proposed that the organisation is awarded funding to cover the costs of delivering the local programme without the contribution to these regional conferences.	
	<b>Quaker Social Action</b> 17 Old Ford Road, Bethnal Green, E2 9PJ	Proposal to run the Knees Up project for third year running – this time on the Avery and Mansford Estates. The project involves direct engagement with people across both estates through door knocking. Through this process priorities for	£7,310	£7,000  The amount of £7,000 is only being offered as this is the maximum	33/45 The proposed project is clearly described and is well planned with many merits. It meets a number of the Getting on Together criteria, including:	

One Tower Hamlets Fund					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
		improving the quality of life of people living in the area are identified and residents who could be involved in developing activities to address these issues are identified. a number of community togetherness activities will follow, building relationships and breaking barriers to communication.		any individual organisation can apply for under the One Tower Hamlets Grant.	<p>-Engagement of hard to reach groups through door knocking</p> <p>-Development of community leaders who are able to represent others interests as well as their own</p> <p>-Bringing service providers and residents together to address shared issues. The organisation has successfully run similar projects on other estates in 2011 and 2012 years.</p>	
	<b>Mile End Community Project</b> 111 Eric Street, Mile End, London E3 4QT	Project proposes to run activities for people from different backgrounds on the British Street estate to develop a display about the history of changing communities living on the estate. Project has support from LBTH History Library and East End Homes.	£7,000	£7,000	<p>Project proposal clearly articulates need for activities which bring together people from different backgrounds on an estate where there is a history of hostility between people from different backgrounds and where population continues to change.</p> <p>Ideas for engagement of people from different backgrounds are innovative and project clearly meets Getting on Together criteria of:</p> <p>-Developing a shared sense of place</p> <p>-Bringing together people from different backgrounds to form meaningful interactions</p>	CE-110



One Tower Hamlets Fund					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
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	<b>Ocean Youth Connection and Stepney Football Club</b> Stepping Stones Farm, Stepney Way, London E1 3DG	Project proposes to bring together two third sector organisations working on the Ocean Estate to develop shared understanding of issues for local residents through engagement activities with people from different backgrounds on the estate including young and older people, white and BME communities and wealthy and less wealthy people. Activities include training programmes to develop new leadership skills of participants and running of community events by project participants.	7,000	£7,000	The project provides a compelling account of the need for a project to develop community leadership and engagement within the area given the considerable change in the population brought about by the considerable regeneration activity. It addresses three of the Getting on Together criteria: -Tackling the attitudes and beliefs that lead to tension -Developing meaningful interaction between people from different backgrounds Developing volunteering and community leadership	
	<b>SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets</b> 80 John Fisher Street, E1 8JX	To set up an Neighbourhood Agreement in the Royal Mint Estate  The project proposal describes activities to develop a team of young people to direct the project and invite local people to engage in dialogue through activities including arts and storytelling. Would also like	£7,000	£7,000	There is evidence of some need for greater community engagement with issues on the estate.  Issues in the area around drug dealing, fear of crime, fly tipping and refuse  Addresses two Getting	

One Tower Hamlets Fund					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
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		<p>to run sports day, gardening projects, and fetes and help people to become community leaders.</p> <p>Working with various services for improvement around services for local resident and to voice concerns</p>			<p>on Together criteria through: Promoting meaningful engagement between Somali and Bangladeshi community and enabling young people to volunteer to run intergenerational activities.</p>	
	<p><b>St George's TRA</b> 46 Hatton House, Hindmarsh Close, London E1 8JJ</p>	<p>The project proposes to bring local people on the estate together to address issues of common concern and undertake practical activities together, including the development of community gardens in public areas on the estate. This will result in a Neighbourhood Agreement.</p>	£7,000	£7,000	<p>The project bid demonstrates that the organisation have an understanding of the needs on the estate and have clear plans for engagement of people from different backgrounds. The focus is on running activities which will be develop residents pride and ownership in the area and this, together with the engagement of people from hard to reach communities, meet the Getting on Together criteria of 'developing a shared sense of place'.</p>	
	<p><b>DeafPlus</b> Trinity Centre, Key Close, Whitechapel, London, E1 4HG</p>	<p>The project proposal is to develop a café at the Trinity Centre where DeafPlus is based and provides social welfare advice and other services for deaf people.</p>	£6,999	£0	<p>The proposed project has many merits, however the bid does not provide details of how this project will improve cohesion between people from different groups – it focuses on providing a new service for deaf people which will be open to people who are not deaf but there is no explanation of</p>	

One Tower Hamlets Fund					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
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				£6,999	<p>how the group will promote engagement between these groups or meet the wider remit of community cohesion. However, it does meet criteria 2: tackling myths and rumours that harm cohesion. Criteria 4 engaging with hard to reach communities and Criteria 6 to encourage participants for onward progression, from the Community Cohesion toolkit. With some additional support and guidance from the One tower Hamlets team DeafPlus can develop their proposed project to meet the general criteria of the fund.</p> <p><i>A briefing on the applications was provided to the Mayor who agreed the proposed grant awards. In addition he considered the DeafPlus project and concluded that the Deaf Plus project does meet three of the 'Getting Along Together' criteria:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Tackling myths and rumours that harm cohesion</i></li> <li>• <i>Engaging with hard to reach communities and</i></li> <li>• <i>Encouraging participants for onward progression,</i></li> </ul> <p><i>With support project to meet the general criteria of the fund.</i></p>	

One Tower Hamlets Fund					Rationale	CGPB Recommendation £
Ref	Organisation Details	Outline of Proposed Event	Grant Request £	Proposal £		
					<i>He concluded that this project should therefore be funded.</i>	
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>£55,000</b>	<b>£53,819</b>		

## **Appendix 2**

### London Borough of Tower Hamlets One Tower Hamlets Fund 2013 - Advertised Eligibility Criteria

We welcome applications from new resident groups. If your organisation does not have a constitution and governance structure you will need to partner with a registered local organisation who will act as the accountable organisation for this funding – the accountable organisation will need to fulfil the criteria set out below.

	<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>
<b><u>1.</u></b>	Organisation is based and working in Tower Hamlets
<b><u>2.</u></b>	Properly constituted organisation with appropriate governing document. <i>(Resident groups without a constitution are asked to partner with a local organisation with a constitution that is willing to be accountable for the project)</i>
<b><u>3.</u></b>	Applicant organisation must have a bank or building society account which has at least 2 signatories from the Management Committee or Board of trustees. <i>(Resident groups without a bank or building society account are asked to partner with a local organisation which does have a bank account and are willing to be accountable for the project).</i>

<b><u>4.</u></b>	Funding should be used to bring people together to develop a neighbourhood project; the core costs of an organisation or the cost of delivering services fall outside the scope of this fund.
<b><u>5.</u></b>	Organisation has a Management Committee or Board which has Tower Hamlets local representation.
<b><u>6.</u></b>	Organisation has an Equality and Diversity policy which sets out how the organisation and services will be provided and how the organisation will abide by anti-discriminatory legislation.
<b><u>7.</u></b>	Successful applicants are expected to get involved with the evaluation of the programme which will run in parallel with projects being developed.

## **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

### **Linked Report**

- List any linked reports [if Exempt, Forward Plan entry MUST warn of that]
- State NONE if none.

### **Appendices**

- List any appendices [if Exempt, Forward Plan entry MUST warn of that]
- State NONE if none.

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

- List any background documents not already in the public domain including officer contact information.
- These must be sent to Democratic Services with the report
- State NONE if none.

**Officer contact details for documents:**

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**Originating Officers and Contact Details**

Name	Title	Contact for information