


Individual Mayoral Decision Proforma Decision Log No: 65	 TOWER HAMLETS
Recommendation of: Corporate Grants Programme Board	Classification: Unrestricted
Tower Hamlets Foodbank - Application to the MSG '954' Budget	

Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Decision Notice Publication Date:	Individual notice
General Exception or Urgency Notice published?	Not required
Restrictions:	N/A

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council recognises that Third Sector Organisations play an important role providing key services to borough residents, particularly those who are among the most vulnerable and deprived members of the community.
- 1.2 Tower Hamlets Foodbank has provided much needed support to over 5,000 clients and continues to work tirelessly to meet the growing demand for emergency food and support for local people experiencing food & fuel poverty.
- 1.3 Clients are referred to the foodbank by frontline care professionals such as doctors or social workers. This is an emergency food service but food banks go beyond the distribution of food and work with their clients to resolve their underlying problems by liaising with organisations capable of addressing issues with benefits, housing, domestic violence and debt.
- 1.4 Tower Hamlets Foodbank is run by the First Love Foundation which works in partnership with a large network of agencies that are best placed to identify those in need: these include Advice Centres, Schools, Children Centres, Mental Health Teams, Social Services, Probation Services, Housing Associations and Jobcentre plus.

- 1.5 The Organisation is seeking financial support from the Council in order to further develop and maintain the existing 3 foodbank centres in the Borough which are located in Poplar, Bethnal Green and Spitalfields.
- 1.6 The Corporate Grants Programme Board considered a report at its meeting of 8 April and agreed a recommendation to support the Foodbank application. The report is attached as appendix 1 for information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the one-off grant of £30,000 as recommended by the Corporate Grants Programme Board.

APPROVALS

Recommendation of the Corporate Grants Programme Board

1. Chief Finance Officer or his/her deputy

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

Signed  Date 31/7/14

2. Monitoring Officer or his/her deputy

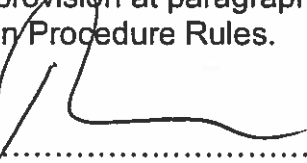
I have been consulted on the content of the attached report which includes my comments.

(For Key Decision only – delete as applicable)

I confirm that this decision:-

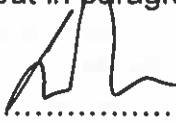
(a) has been published in advance on the Council's Forward Plan OR


(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  Date 09/07/14

3. Mayor

I agree the decision proposed in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above for the reasons set out in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 in the attached report.

Signed  Date 31/7/14

<p>Individual Mayoral Decision</p> <p>Corporate Grants Programme Board</p> <p>8 April 2014</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Corporate Director (Development & Renewal)</p> <p>Originating Officers Dave Clark (Interim Service Head Resources D&R) Everett Haughton (Third Sector Programmes Manager)</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>Tower Hamlets Foodbank - Application to the MSG '954' Budget</p>	

Lead Member	Alibor Choudhury
Wards affected	All wards
Community Plan Theme	A Prosperous Community/ A Safe and Cohesive Community/A Healthy and Supportive Community

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.7 This report deals an application received by the Third Sector Team from Tower Hamlets Foodbank.
- 1.8 The Tower Hamlets Foodbank is a project of the First Love Foundation – a Christian-based charity. The project works to meet the growing demand for emergency food and support for local people experiencing food & fuel poverty, in addition to those impacted by Welfare Reforms.
- 1.9 Items of long-life food are donated by members of the local community. It is then banked in a temporary storage facility and distributed through a network of foodbank centres located in Poplar, Bethnal Green and Spitalfields.
- 1.10 This report seeks a decision on providing a one-off grant support to this organisation. The only available mechanism for supporting this organisation is through the MSG 954 budget which was agreed by Cabinet on 20 June 2012 (CAB 010/123).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Mayor is recommended to:

- 2.1 Agree the proposed award for Tower Hamlets Food Bank of £30,000 as set out in paragraph 6.3.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 3.1 The decision on proposed grant allocation is required in order to assist the Council to meet its commitment to support residents impacted by the effects of the welfare reform.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1 An alternative option would be to decide not to fund the organisation and to use the funds for other purposes.
- 4.2 There is also the option to offer alternative levels of grant to that recommended.

5. BACKGROUND

- 5.1 In December 2010, the charity First Love Foundation secured the franchise to operate the Foodbank service in Tower Hamlets.
- 5.2 Tower Hamlets Foodbank has recently fed their 5,000th client and continues to work to meet the growing demand for emergency food and support for local people experiencing food & fuel poverty, in addition to those impacted by Welfare Reforms.
- 5.3 The service is currently delivered via 3 Foodbank centres located in Poplar, Bethnal Green and Spitalfields. The service is delivered in the main by volunteers, coordinated by a small core team. There is no permanent food storage facility, instead relying on the goodwill of local businesses that have gifted space on a short term basis. To date, over 60 tonnes of food has been donated by the local community.
- 5.4 Tower Hamlets Foodbank is the organisation's first project which was run on a totally voluntary basis between December 2010 and August 2012, during which time 3,700 people accessed the service.

- 5.5 Given the historically high levels of deprivation that exists within the boundaries of Tower Hamlets, the majority of clients that have accessed the foodbank service are in receipt of benefits.
- 5.6 The service works in partnership with a network of over 200 agencies which are best placed to identify those in need: these include Advice Centres, Schools, Children Centres, Mental Health Teams, Social Services, Probation Services, Housing Associations and Jobcentre plus.
- 5.7 For the past 18 months partnerships have been developed with Housing Benefit and Advice agencies to enhance the service provided at the Foodbank sessions. Since the launch of the service, the demand for emergency food and support has continued to rise.

6. MAIN BODY OF REPORT

- 6.1 First Love Foundation is seeking £50,000 in order to maintain and develop the existing three food bank centres in the borough.
- 6.2 Funding will contribute to the core costs of the organisation which includes:
- i. Development of links with partner agencies to increase access for local residents affected by food poverty
 - ii. The administration of the three food centres including coordination of donations, recruitment and training of volunteers and referrals to resolve the income problems that cause the food crisis.
- 6.3 Given the demand for these services together with the strong track record of the organisation in the borough, including the partnership and referral networks it has developed with key Council and other stakeholder organisations, it is recommended that a one off grant of £30,000 is allocated for 2014/15
- 6.4 If an award is approved, officers will negotiate and agree appropriate output and outcome targets.

7. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 7.1 This report seeks Mayoral approval to contribute £30,000 to support the continuation of a Foodbank service in Tower Hamlets. The grant contribution will be made from the

Mainstream Grants Fund that was established by Cabinet in June 2012. There are sufficient uncommitted resources available within the £954,000 budget to support this "one-off" contribution.

- 7.2 The Foodbank service is a unique scheme for which it is difficult to benchmark outputs and costs, and therefore to assess value for money. To mitigate this, the Council, via the Third Sector Team, will negotiate delivery targets with the organisation, with funding payments being made in stages to ensure that the financing is only available if performance is in line with that expected.

8. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (LEGAL SERVICES)

- 8.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives the Council a general power of competence to do anything that individuals generally may do, subject to specified restrictions and limitations imposed by other statutes. This power may support the giving of grants to community groups, provided there is a good reason to do so.
- 8.2 There may be a good reason for giving a grant if it is likely to further the Council's sustainable community strategy under section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Council's strategy is set out in the Tower Hamlets Community Plan, which includes "One Tower Hamlets" as a cross-cutting theme. One element of the One Tower Hamlets theme is the aspiration to reduce poverty and inequality. The work of First Love Foundation to address food and fuel poverty may be seen as consistent with this aspiration.
- 8.3 Addressing food and fuel poverty may support delivery of a number of other Council functions. For example, the Council is required by section 10 of the Children Act 2004 to make arrangements with its relevant partners to promote the well-being of children in the borough. The support proposed for the Tower Hamlets Foodbank may contribute directly to the discharge of this duty, by helping to combat child poverty. Other examples can be given, particularly in relation to the Council's education and community care functions.
- 8.4 Supporting the Tower Hamlets Foodbank may have a preventative effect relevant to discharge of some of the Council's functions. For example, helping people with food and fuel may help to avoid rent arrears and, in turn, homelessness. This may be viewed, in respect of some of the Council's functions, as making an indirect contribution to discharge of those functions. If so, this would be supportable by reference to the Council's incidental power. By virtue of section 111 of the Local

Government Act 1972, the Council has power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions. This may involve expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights.

- 8.5 When considering whether or not to make the grant, the Council must have due regard 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. There is information contained in the report relevant to equality of opportunity.

9. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 The contribution of Third Sector organisations to delivering One Tower Hamlets is explicitly recognised in the Tower Hamlets Partnership's Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. Local Voluntary and Community 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.

10. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 10.1 The funding recommendation in this report supports 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.

11. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 A number of different risks arise from any funding of external organisations.
- 11.2 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;

- 11.3 These risks will be mitigated through a negotiated Grant Agreement and regular monitoring of the project.

12. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The services provided 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.

13. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

- 13.1 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, for example:
- Supporting service providers who deliver cost effective services that benefit the local community and meet the needs of the area.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Tower Hamlets Food Bank MSG Application Form

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Mainstream Grant Commissioning 2012-15

GENERAL INFORMATION

1 Organisation name:

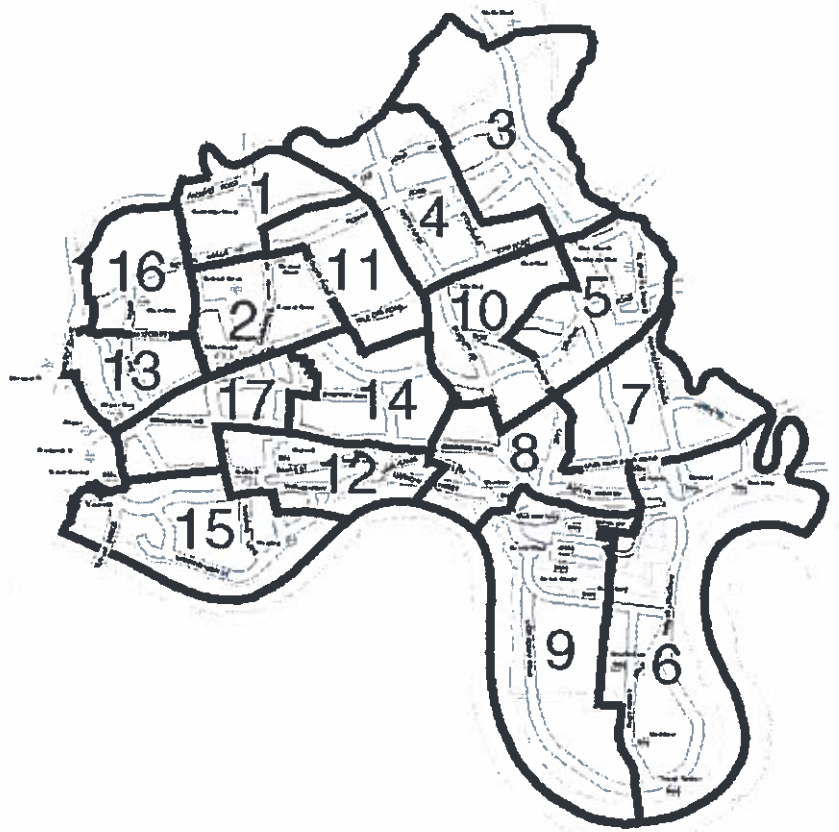
2 Organisation address and postcode:

Phone number: Website:

3 Geographical Area Based

Please tick the ward your organisation is based in. (See guidance note x for further information)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Bethnal Green North | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Bethnal Green South | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Bow East | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Bow West | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Bromley by Bow | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Blackwall and Cubitt Town | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 East India and Lansbury | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 Limehouse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 Millwall | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 Mile End East | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 Mile End and Globe Town | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12 Shadwell | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13 Spitalfields and Banglatown | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14 St Dunstan's and Stepney | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15 St Katherine's and Wapping | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16 Weavers | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17 Whitechapel | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18 Out of Borough | <input type="checkbox"/> |



4 Legal Status
What is the legal status of the organisation?

- 1 None
- 2 Unregistered Organisation
- 3 Registered Charity
- 4 Company Limited by Guarantee
- 5 Other - *please specify*

5 Charity Number (if applicable)

1137819

6 Company Registration Number (if applicable)

07193272

7 Governing Document(s)
(See guidance note 7 for further information)

CONTACT DETAILS

8 Prefix (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms, etc)

Mrs

9 First Name

Denise

10 Last Name

Bentley

11 Job Title

Chief Executive

12 Email address

denise@towerhamletsfoodbank.org.uk

ORGANISATION & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

13 General Organisational Administration and Management

Please answer all of the following questions (See guidance note 13 for further information).

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| i When was your organisation formally constituted or established? | March 2010 |
| ii Who are your organisation's primary target beneficiaries? | The entire community |
| iii How many people on your Management Committee/Board? | 3 |
| iv How many of the Management Committee/Board are women? | 1 |
| v How many of the Management Committee/Board are from BME | 2 |
| vi How many of the Management Committee/Board have a disability? | 0 |
| vii How many members of the Committee/Board are Tower Hamlets | 1 |
| viii Does your organisation have a written Safeguarding Policy? | Y |
| ix Does your organisation have written financial systems and procedures? | Y |
| x Does your organisation have a bank or building society account? | Y |
| xi Does your organisation have a written fundraising strategy? | Y |
| xii Does your organisation have a written health and safety policy? | Y |
| xiii When was your organisation's equalities and diversity policy last | 2012 |
| xiv Does your organisation have a written volunteer induction and training | Y |
| xv How many paid (FTE) members of staff are employed by your | 4 |
| xvi How many (FTE) of the organisation's paid employees are Borough | 2 |

Your responses to the above may be subject to verification checks as part of the application assessment process

The primary objective with these questions is to help with the population of fields within GIFTS so that we have useful information about third sector orgs to be used for various purposes – for

14 Compliance

What is the organisation's current position with regard to the filing of documents and the validity of information registered with the Charity Commission? (See guidance note 14 for further information)

All relevant documents and reports are submitted to the Companies House and the Charity Commission in accordance with the required reporting requirements and timescales

15 Organisational Structure & Governance

Describe the trustee, management and staffing structure of the organisation together with the key strengths which enable it to effectively deliver its agreed aims and objectives (max 200 words). (See Guidance Note 15 for further information).

The Foundation is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity in England and Wales. The current Board of Trustees and CEO are the founders of the Foundation. The charity has a Board consisting of three Trustees who are experienced in Social Outreach projects, Community Development & Health promotion as well as extensive experience in Third Sector.

The Board of Trustees is legally responsible for the overall management and control of the Foundation and meets quarterly. The Chief Executive Officer and Management team have delegated authority to deal with the business of the Foundation between meetings.

Upon recruitment, new trustees are inducted through the issuing of a trustee handbook, which includes relevant Charity Commission material, the Foundations governance, structure, management, strategy and key policies.

There is also a Church Advisory Group that provides additional regular support and is representative of the broad range of churches across the borough.

PROJECT PROPOSAL

16 Funding Stream

Please indicate which funding stream you are applying to. (See guidance note 16 for further information)

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | Arts, Sports and Environmental Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Children and Families Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Community Language Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Community and Economic Engagement | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | Early Years Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | Lifelong Learning Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | Older People Lunch-club Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8 | Social Welfare Advice Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9 | Study Support Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10 | Third Sector Infrastructure Support | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11 | Youth and Connexions Services | <input type="checkbox"/> |

17 Consortium

Is your application being made on behalf of a consortium – please select

N

18 Project Name

What is the name of your Project?

19 Project Description

Please describe your project clarifying how it meets the detailed service specification – maximum 800 words (See guidance note 19 for further information)

The food bank helps to alleviate poverty, tackle inequalities and promotes the inclusion of Tower Hamlets residents, particularly those from marginalised and vulnerable communities through providing an emergency food support service to local people experiencing food crisis. The reasons for crisis ranges from Low Income & Debt right through to Domestic Violence & Mental Health – all underpinned by issues surrounding benefits i.e. delay, change of benefits or sanctions. Items of long-life food is donated by the local community, which is banked in a temporary storage facility and distributed through our network of foodbank centres located in **Poplar, Bethnal Green and Spitalfields**, three of the areas with highest levels of deprivation in the borough.

We work in partnership with a network of over 200 locally based agencies (130 of which are statutory funded) who refer clients to access our service as they are best placed to identify those in need. These organisations include Advice Centres, Schools, Children Centres, Mental Health Teams, Social Services, Probation Services, Housing Associations and Jobcentre plus. Upon attendance at a foodbank centre, we also provide 'help in finding help'.

We are seeking LBTH funding to enable us to maintain and continue existing services and to extend access to the service across the borough by increasing our voucher holder network.

Proposed outputs March 2014 - 2015

- Maintaining and improving the level of services of the three foodbank centres located in Poplar, Bethnal Green and Spitalfields
- Growing the frontline care professional network by 10 agencies – extending accessibility
- Increased involvement of the local community through offering a minimum of 3 more volunteer opportunities

In addition we aim to secure additional resources to open two further centres – but this is dependent on being able to secure necessary resources to drive this forward.

20 Project/Service Outcomes

Please tell us what outcomes you think your project or service will achieve – maximum 150 words
(See guidance note 20 for further information)

Outcomes by March 2015.

60% of clients referred receive emergency food will be supported to tackle the underlying issues that caused the crisis. This will include

- ensuring that where necessary and relevant, the foodbank client is also able to access emergency donation of funds
- ensuring rapid referrals to housing benefit, jobcentre plus and advice agencies for the resolution of issues relating to non-payment of benefits, restoring income.
- engaging local people as volunteers in activities relating to civic pride and citizenship.
- providing opportunities for all sections of the community to work together and ensuring a safe non-discriminatory place where people are treated with respect and dignity and their concerns are listened to.
- Supporting individuals who are adversely affected by the impacts of recent welfare reforms

21 Experience and Track Record

Provide details of the experience your organisation has in the development and delivery of projects similar to the one described in this application – maximum 1000 words- (See guidance note 21 for further information).

First Love Foundation is a Christian Charity committed to the transformation of society through social justice. The service launched in December 2010 was run on a voluntary basis, but after the first two years it became clear that funding was needed to employ a team who would work to expand the capacity of the service to meet the growing need. Funding was obtained from Oxfam in 2013/14, which allowed the recruitment of a Project Coordinator and Warehouse Supervisor to help deliver our strategy.

The service is delivered via three foodbank centres located in Poplar, Bethnal Green and Spitalfields. The service is delivered by volunteers, coordinated by a small core team. We have no permanent food storage facility, instead relying on the goodwill of local businesses that have gifted space on a short term basis. To date, over 60 tonnes of food has been donated by the local community, from which over 5,000 Tower Hamlets residents have received emergency food and support.

Our partnership network of over 200 agencies (130 of which are statutory funded) are best placed to identify those in need, they include Advice Centres, Schools, Children Centres, Mental Health Teams, Social Services (Including Floating Support), Probation Services, Housing Associations and Jobcentre plus.

We have built partnerships and introduced welfare rights & housing benefits advice into our foodbank sessions. This way of working has added value to the service and also yielded real benefits for clients of foodbank.

Since April, we have seen a steep rise in demand for emergency food and support which coincided with the introduction of the Bedroom Tax in April - and more recently the Benefit Cap in August – we have also noted:

- An increase in number of referrals resulting in more single people, fewer families
- Most issues are benefit related i.e. mal-administration, sanctions and benefit delay (average delay 3 months)

An unexpected outcome is that although we have innovated and piloted this partnership approach (Foodbank Plus), it has now been acknowledged as highly effective and best practice. There are plans currently being developed for this pilot to be extended to a small number of foodbanks with longer term plans to extend it across the entire Trussell Trust UK Foodbank network.

22 Quality Assurance Standards

Please set out details of the Quality Assurance standards that the organisation has in place that will support the effective delivery of the proposed project - maximum 300 words. **(See guidance note 22 for further information).**

We are part of the Trussell Trust network of foodbanks who audits our operations on an annual basis.

23 Project Management and Control

Please describe how you will ensure that the project is effectively managed and controlled - maximum 500 words. **(See guidance note 23 for further information).**

The project is monitored on a month to month basis – and data is also captured for research and analytical purposes via an online database, of which the Trussell Trust are the custodians.

We managed £57,000 in income in the year ending March 2012.

Our aim is to continue to grow and extend the reach of foodbank across Tower Hamlets by:

- Extending the service through opening additional centres in Bow and the Isle of Dogs
- Increase accessibility to the foodbank service by continuing to grow the network of care professionals we partner with
- Securing a permanent storage facility

24 Equalities and Diversity

Describe how the organisation (or partnership/consortium) will ensure that equalities and diversity issues are taken into account in the planning and delivery of the proposed project – maximum 200 words. **(See guidance note 24 for further information).**

As a Christian organisation, we work to deliver a service that is targeted and delivered **to the entire community**. The only criteria used by our Voucher Holder Network to refer clients to access our service is **no money + no food** - all to ensure that the service we provide is accessible to the entire community of Tower Hamlets

25 Project Staff and Volunteers

Provide details of the staff and volunteers who will be involved in delivering the proposed project/services - maximum 600 words. **(See guidance note 25 for further information).**

There is a core team of four full time and one part time member of staff that coordinates the service on a day to day basis – they are as follows:

1. Foodbank Manager (FT)
2. Project Coordinator (FT)
3. Project Assistant (PT) – from Nov 13
4. Warehouse Supervisor (FT)
5. Office Manager (FT)

We work with a core team of 30 locally based volunteers who help deliver the service at our foodbank centres – we also have a roster of over 400 casual volunteers, mostly locally based, who assist with sorting food and participate in food drives on a periodic basis.

26 Project Finances

Clarify your project finances in relation to the completed Table B. (See guidance note 26 for further information).

The grants we have secured so far are as follows:

1. £88,400 from Oxfam to cover the period to March 2015 – this partly funds the salaries of Project Coordinator / Warehouse Manager & Office Manager.
2. £12,000 per annum (for a period of two years) from Lloyds TSB Foundation to partly fund the salary of the Foodbank Manager.

The funding of £50,000 we are seeking as outlined is to contribute towards our core costs for 12 months.

