

Equality Assessment of MSG Roll-Over Funding Proposals 2015 : Funding Stream**Section 1: Equality Assessment Summary****MSG Funding – Third Sector Infrastructure Support**

Assessment of the potential equality impact of: Proposal to extend or discontinue Main Stream Grant (MSG) beyond 31st March 2015 to projects based on a criteria agreed with DCLG Commissioners.

Responsible Directorate: Development & Renewal

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Priorities/Objectives

To provide funding to Tower Hamlets based 'infrastructure' or infrastructure focussed organisations/projects in order that they support locally front-line organisations.

The aim is that as a result of this funding Tower Hamlets will develop a healthy voluntary and community sector with a proven record of delivery, fundraising and strong financial management skills.

Funding Stream Assessment Outcome

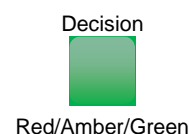
A detailed breakdown of the length of funding recommended is set out in Table # on page 3.

	Above Line	Below Line	Total
Total no of Projects funded (2012-2015)	5	1	6
Number of projects recommended for roll-over funding	4	1	5
Number of projects not recommended for roll-over funding	0	0	0
Number of projects now closed /Grant Terminated	1	0	1

Impact Summary

Summarise any overall impact of the assessment on the various groups with protected characteristics

This equality assessment evaluates the impact of the proposal - to extend funding to (5) of the currently funded projects for the duration of the extension period and one (1) of the organisations (assessed as amber) for an initially period of 3 months with the possibility of extending funding for the duration of the extension should the project performance meet the specified targets – as Green. Having no disproportionate or adverse effect on any group bearing protected characteristics.



Organisations offering infrastructure support to other voluntary organisations or projects tend to focus on specialisms e.g. Assist organisations to gain a quality accreditation, capacity building, financial health checks, I.T infrastructure etc. The recommendation for extended funding will continue to benefit groups that support beneficiaries with the following protected characteristics: women, Somali, Bengali, BAME as well as provide a transport for a range of vulnerable people.

Value of Recommended Extensions

£000,000

Section 2: Identified Need

Through the Tower Hamlets Voluntary Community Sector Strategy a commitment has been made to provide infrastructure support to the third sector.

The Tower Hamlets community and voluntary sector are in receipt of grants of approx. £200,000 per year for the period April 2012 March 2015.

The purpose of this funding is to provide core organisational services that provide infrastructure support initiatives.

Taking this into account the total amount being directed into infrastructure support since the last funding round was increased by £284,000, this is more than double the amount of £130,000 awarded in the previous round of funding.

Other infrastructure service providers in the borough include the following:

Organisation	Project
The Women's Resource Centre (WRC)	A charity which supports women's organisations to be more effective and sustainable.
Lasa	A charity which offers knowledge, support and resources in technology and welfare rights advice to the third sector advice agencies.
LBTH Sports and physical activity team	Ensures that all residents have access to valued, good quality sport and physical activity experiences
The Council of Somali Organisations	Based in LBTH, this agency provides capacity building support to increase the operational effectiveness of Somali organisations.
Fossbox	Provides Free and Open Source Software (FOSS), Content Management Systems, online collaboration, social networking and FOSS IT training for local groups.
Greater London Volunteering	Provides free training on volunteer management topics, action learning sets – work-based problem solving in a supportive peer group of volunteer managers, a free health check tool for improving groups work with volunteers.

Section 3: Equality Impact Assessment

Target Groups	Impact ✓ - Positive ✗ - Adverse 0 = Neutra	Reason(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and, Describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform decision making
Race	0 = Neutral	<p>Projects approved for extension of funding will continue to provide infrastructure support services to all sectors of the Community including, Black Asian and other minority ethnic organisations make up the highest percentage of projects that use infrastructure services.</p> <p>The provision targeted at the newly established Somali organisation is recommended for funding extension and will continue support this growing community.</p>
Disability	0 = Neutral	The proposed recommendations will have no impact on the ability of the service provision to organisations targeting people with a disability.
Gender	0 = Neutral	The proposed recommendation will have no impact on the current service to people of a specific gender.
Gender Reassignment	0 = Neutral	No related data is available as it has not been collected by previously MSG-funded organisations – however since the proposal has not resulted in a change or reduction of the services provided it is considered that there will be no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Sexual Orientation	0 = Neutral	Whilst there is currently insufficient data to quantify the benefit to people of the LBGBT community. The proposed award, (which is a new contribution) and will benefit this sector of the community - however since the proposal has not resulted in a change or reduction of the services provided it is considered that there will be no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Religion or Belief	0 = Neutral	No data related to religion or belief is available - however since the proposal has not resulted in a change or reduction of the services provided it is considered that there will be no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Age	0 = Neutral	The proposed recommendation will have no impact on the on organisations based on age.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	0 = Neutral	Insufficient monitoring data available to draw any conclusion - however since the proposal has not resulted in a change or reduction of the services provided it is considered that there will be no impact on people with this protected characteristic.
Pregnancy and Maternity	0 = Neutral	The proposed recommendation will have no impact on the current service to people based on their socio-economic status. Low income households are the main users of advice services in the borough and the provision remains unchanged.

Section 4: Equality Impact Assessment Action Plan

The table below sets out potential disproportionate adverse effect (on a particular group), identified as a result of undertaking this Equality Impact assessment and proposes actions that can be taken to mitigate the impact.

At least one alternative way of delivering the change which will lessen any potential adverse impact, has been considered.

Table 4: Proposals for mitigating potential adverse impact

Adverse impact	Proposed actions to mitigate adverse impact
<p>The equalities assessment indicates no change in service provision to either of the groups with protected characteristics as a result of the recommendations for extension of MSF funding, therefore there are no adverse impact have been identified.</p>	

In our view the following identified potential impact cannot be mitigated options, therefore alternative options have been considered as a means of progressing with the proposal.

Table 5: Alternative options where potential negative impact cannot be mitigated.

Adverse impact	Option/s	Estimated Costs
<p>The equalities assessment indicates no change in service provision to either of the groups with protected characteristics, as a result of the recommendations for extension of MSF funding, therefore there are alternative to mitigating actions are not applicable.</p>		

If an adverse impact cannot be mitigated please describe an alternative option, its costs and the equality impact.

Section 5: Future Review and Monitoring

The funding made available through the Main Stream Grant process is categorised as “discretionary” funding in that the Council has no statutory or legal obligation to make funding/grants available in this way. As a result there is no obligation on the Council to provide further funding to the current, projects or organisations that are subject to this assessment.

Extended funding under this programme period will be subject to monitoring and performance review process set out in the funding agreement.

Section 6 – Project Information

Overview of all projects funded 2012-15 (No 6)

(View table 3 page 3 for) - Overall summary of projects **recommended for extension of funding**

Project Ref:	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Delivery	Evaluation	
			Original	Re-evaluated
TSIS-02	Development project supporting 30 sports groups.	All projects serve the whole borough	77	
TSIS-05	Quality standards / development support and information to volunteer involving organisations.		73	
TSIS-06	Transports Infrastructure service to Third Sector Orgs		67	
TSIS-07	Development and networking of social welfare advice voluntary and community orgs NVQ4 level		60	
TSIS-08	Development support		58	
TSIS-14	Development support to Somali orgs		0	

3. Projects **not recommended** for extended funding (0)

No	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
Commentary: There are no projects not recommended for extension of funding			

4. Projects **CLOSED/** gave notice to terminate their Grant Agreement

No	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Comment
TSIS-08 SSBA Community Trust	Development support /Health Checks	Boroughwide	Organisation has withdrawn from delivering the project.
Commentary:			