

Questions for the Commissioner's Decision Making Meeting, 22nd April 2014

Submitted by THCVS, 21st April 2015

MSG programme consultation and review

1. Page 13, paragraph 3.17 of the papers sets out what the most pertinent pieces of feedback were from the October consultation event. What were the most frequent pieces of feedback from the Consultation?

Could officers provide us with an overview of the main points of the March consultation event as well as some information on how the feedback from that consultation event was incorporated into the revised MSG specifications?

2. Page 17, paragraph 3.33 sets out one of the findings of the MSG review group. What were the other findings from the review groups and to what extent have they been considered and incorporated in the new MSG programme?

The MSG application process

3. Page 32, paragraph 3.83 requests an extension to the timeframe for applications, which we think many organisations will welcome. It does however mean that the time from being notified of funding and starting projects will be reduced to 5 weeks. What assistance will there be to organisations to help them start up their projects in this short timeframe?

What contingency arrangements are in place should there be any delays in the application, assessment and decision-making stages for the new programme? Will the current rollovers be extended?

4. Page 139 (appendix 4, MSG Assessment Process) states that applications scoring less than 46 points will not have met the necessary minimum criteria and would not be recommended for funding unless there is a compelling reason. Can officers provide some clarification on how the figure of 46 points was arrived at?

MSG finance

5. Page 34, paragraph 4.1 explains that budget allocations beyond March 2016 will be assessed as part of the Council's annual budget process. What assurances can successful MSG applicants have for the future years funding of their project over the course of this MSG programme?

Theme specific questions

6. The Community, Engagement and Resilience theme states that projects will have a life of around 12 months. Does this mean this theme will be open to applications on an on-going basis, or should organisations apply now for projects to be run in later years of the MSG programme?
7. The Specification for the Community, Engagement and Resilience theme (page 100) states that there is a proposal to merge this funding stream with the One Tower Hamlets fund. At the beginning of April however the One Tower Hamlets fund was opened for applications. Can we please have clarification on whether the two funds are being merged?

Funding for THCVS

8. Page 18, paragraph 3.40 asks for consideration to be given to the funding for the CVS either by way of a top slice or through a proposal under the Third Sector Infrastructure theme (this is also referred to at pages 36, paragraph 5.11 and 37, paragraph 5.12). When will a decision be made as to the funding arrangements?

9. The current work THCVS undertakes as a strategic partner to the Council, acting as the voice and representation of the voluntary, faith and community sector in the Borough, is not part of the new MSG programme. Will this work continue to be funded after 1st September 2015?
10. The Equality Analysis makes reference to the CVS top-slice (pages 144, paragraph 1.2 and 145, paragraph 1.3). Will the Equality Analysis be undertaken again if the strategic work of the CVS is not funded after 1st September 2015, in order to determine if, and to what extent, there are equalities impacts?
11. Page 30, paragraph 3.66 states that the reduction in third sector infrastructure funding should not have an adverse impact on the sector given the MSG programme's new approach on focus and outcomes. Can more detail be given as to why the reduction will not have an adverse impact?