


<b>Commissioner Decision Report</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> May 2015	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Robert McCulloch-Graham, Corporate Director, ESCW	<b>Classification:</b> [Unrestricted]
<b>Can Do Community Development Programme – Project Support Awards</b>	

<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	Somen Banerjee, Interim Director of Public Health
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes
<b>Community Plan Theme</b>	<b>Healthy and Supportive Community</b>
<b>Reasons for Urgency</b>	Four contracts with voluntary sector providers have been on hold since December 2014 and it is hoped to make funding available to enable programmes which are scheduled for the summer to take place.

### Executive Summary

The Can Do Community Development Programme is commissioned through the Council's Public Health contracting. The programme supports community engagement to help overcome the barriers to healthy eating and active lives and is delivered through four locality-based contracts with local voluntary sector organisations.

Intrinsic to the scheme is a fund to make small project awards to people who put forward small local projects that support healthier living. Each Can Do provider organisation has £5,000 per year per ward cluster (generally 5 wards) to support the initiation of individual projects (maximum of £500 on any one project). The availability of the funds is advertised two or three times per year and application forms set out the criteria on which awards will be made and these must be submitted to a deadline for assessment. Community Assessment Panels made up of local people are convened in each locality and they evaluate applications and award support with guidance from public health officers.

As the awards are in the nature of a grant any further project awards were put on hold pending consultation with commissioners. The recommendation is that the programme proceeds as per previous practice with delegated authority from the commissioners.

### Recommendations:

The Commissioners are recommended to:

- (1) Approve the Can Do Programme local support grant awards scheme
- (2) Authorise the Corporate Director of Education, Social Care and Well Being to award the Can Do Programme local support grant awards through the Community Assessment Panels

- (3) Agree that reports should be provided to the Commissioners at the completion of each award cycle with a list of the grants recipients, reason for award and amount awarded.

## **1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The Can Do programme has proved a highly successful way to engage local residents in activities to promote healthier lives. The award of small seed funding to help generate community involvement is core to the programme and makes a very significant contribution to the levels of engagement and commitment. A decision to continue the award process enables the programme to move forward and contribute positively to improved health outcomes for the borough population.

## **2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The first alternative is to not proceed with the project awards. However this would impact adversely on the Can Do programme and severely limit the impact of a highly popular and effective “bottom up” way of promoting healthy behaviours within local neighbourhoods and local communities. For this reason this option is not recommended.
- 2.2 The second alternative would be to require that each individual project award is referred back to the commissioners for approval. This would require a good deal of extra paperwork and be likely to further slowdown the progress of the programme. As the recipients are individuals and the awards are made by independent local panels it is suggested that this level of scrutiny is not appropriate in this case.

## **3. DETAILS OF REPORT**

### **3.1 Background**

- 3.1.1 The Can Do Community Development Programme was launched in Tower Hamlets in 2010 as part of the Tower Hamlets Healthy Town programme, a national pilot programme that sought to model and test out ways to mitigate the “obesogenic environment” that has led to an increasingly overweight population with its related health risks such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. The Can Do programme aimed to identify low level ways to overcome the barriers to healthy eating and active lives faced by local residents by promoting and provide support to local people and groups wishing to deliver community led solutions and create healthier local environments. The programme seeks to address these barriers through developing a social movement for better health in Tower Hamlets by promoting and co-producing community led projects in addition to supporting the development of local community health advocates.
- 3.1.2 Independent evaluation of the Can Do programme identified good outcomes in terms of overcoming barriers to healthy activity, better use of public space

and building social capital. When the Health Town programme ceased in 2011 Tower Hamlets public health continued to support the programme and contracts were transferred to the Council in April 2013 when public health functions became the responsibility of local authorities. The Can Do programme was reprocured during 2014 and a new programme of activity across the borough commenced in October 2014. The award of the Can Do contracts – four area-based contracts - were made under delegated powers by officers as the total value of the contracts is below £250,000.

### 3.2. How the Can Do programme works

3.2.1 The Can Do programme is commissioned via four locality based community organisation contracts, each with a value of £21,000 p.a. The contracts support one part-time community development worker (**CDW**) in each of the four localities. The CDWs work closely with residents and community groups to encourage the development of small local projects to support healthier living. An additional contract with one of the organisations supports an overall programme coordinator role (part time).

3.2.2 The service providers are local voluntary sector organisations:

- **Osmani Trust** (north west ward cluster)
- **Island House** (south west and south east wards clusters)
- **Bromley by Bow Centre** (north east ward cluster)

3.2.3 Can Do CLP aims to stimulate new approaches to promoting health and supports community members who may otherwise not be engaged with their health. The Can Do model is community led, with decisions about which ideas and activities to support being taken by a local community panel.

### 3.3 The Can Do project awards

3.3.1 The programme provides community development support to individuals and small groups to design, set up, run and evaluate sustainable (if appropriate) locally relevant initiatives. Each Can Do provider organisation has £5,000 per year per ward cluster to support the initiation of individual projects (maximum of £500 on any one project). Application forms set out the criteria on which awards will be made and must be submitted to a deadline for assessment. (See Appendix A) There are generally between 2-3 deadlines each year.

3.3.2 Each host organisation convenes a Community Assessment Panel (CAP) to review and assess project proposals and make decisions on which projects to support based on their relevance to the 4 priority themes and selection criteria identified by public health.

3.3.3 Each panel is representative of the ward cluster population, consisting of a minimum of 4-6 community members (normally 1 from each ward), representation from Public Health, health trainer organisations and the host organisation. Providers advertise for people who are willing to sit on the panels and they are also recruited through outreach. There are no councillors on the panels. Locality Public health managers attend to ensure probity and adherence to the programme priorities and are able to intervene to block any awards that do not fully meet the requirements of the programme.

3.3.4 Successful projects are required to complete council monitoring forms and submit a project report at the end of the project recording project outcomes.

#### **3.4. Role of commissioners**

3.4.1 When the Secretary of State`s directions respecting grants were issued in November 2014, Public Health notified the providers that no awards should be made pending clarity about whether these fell within the remit of the commissioners and would therefore need to be determined by the commissioners once appointed. For the avoidance of doubt it was decided that the Can Do awards should be submitted for consideration by the Commissioners even though the awards are made by the local Community Panels with no councillor involvement.

#### **3.5. Level of urgency**

3.5.1 Although the sums of money involved are relatively small the Council has live two year delivery contracts with the three organisations stated above and the providers have reported that under current circumstances they are unable to progress much of the community development activity due to uncertainty about whether the awards will be available. The awards although small are considered to be a vital incentive to participation in the programme and to create a sense of excitement and commitment. It would therefore be helpful to reach a decision on the recommendation as early as possible so that (if the recommendation is agreed) the programme can continue and regain momentum.

#### **3.6. Recommendation for commissioners**

3.6.1 The commissioners are recommended to agree that the Public Health Can Do programme may proceed with delegated authority to make the Can Do Programme local support awards through the Community Assessment Panels. Public Health must provide a report back to the commissioners with a list of the recipients, reason for award and amount awarded, at the completion of each award cycle.

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

4.1. The Can Do programme will be met by the Public Health Grant budget allocation, the programme is factored into current forecasts.

### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

5.1. The power of the commissioners to make decisions in relation to grants arises from directions made by the Secretary of State on 17 December 2014 pursuant to powers under sections 15(5) and 15(6) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Directions). Paragraph 4(ii) and Annex B of the Directions together provide that, until 31 March 2017, the Council`s functions in relation to grants will be exercised by appointed Commissioners, acting jointly or severally. This is subject to an exception in relation to grants made under

section 24 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996, for the purposes of section 23 of that Act (disabled facilities grant).

- 5.2. This report concerns competitively procured contracts which have grant components as part of the service delivery. Under the existing contracts, local panels recommend which small projects to support and then grant funding is provided from the Council through the local panels to the individual organisation. The report seeks the Commissioners' approval for the award of grants under the service contracts (i.e. approval for the scheme) together with authority delegation to the corporate director to finalise the grant awards.
- 5.3. The grants are concerned with community engagement to help overcome barriers to healthy eating and active lives. These may be directly connected with the Council's general obligation under section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 to take such steps as it consider appropriate for improving the health of the people of Tower Hamlets (NHS Act, section 2B). Information is provided in the report as to how applications are assessed and from this the connection with the Council's public health functions may be assessed.
- 5.4. The grants may also be supportable under the Council's general power of competence. 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 general power of competence may support the giving of grants to community groups, provided there is a good reason to do so. 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, which is contained within the Tower Hamlets Community Plan.
- 5.5. The Council is obliged, 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. This is the Council's best value duty and arises under section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999. In consideration of this duty, the following matters should be considered –
  - The contracts to which the grants relate were competitively procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the requirements of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union under which a fair and transparent process was followed complying with the principles of equal treatment, transparency and non-discrimination. The Council's Procurement Procedures were also complied with. In the event the grants were not approved, the Council would be exposed to breach of contract and the associated risks.
  - The Council should make provision within the grants to ensure delivery of the projects and in the event of non-delivery to protect the Council's position. Robust monitoring requirements should be put in place and appropriate performance related payment mechanisms introduced. Grant agreements should be concluded, which may be proportionate to the level of grant.

- 5.6. The proposed delegation to the corporate director provides discretion in respect of grant awards, which is constrained to some extent by the award considerations outlined in the application form in the appendix. Any risk of impact on the transparency or integrity of the decision making process may be considered low by reason of the requirements which applicants must satisfy, the requirement for reporting back to the commissioners and the expected size of awards.
- 5.7. In carrying out its functions, 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 (the public sector equality duty). The report contains some information relevant to these considerations. Equality considerations should be reflected in the recommendation process and fully considered by the individual panels and the corporate director before approving any recommended grant.

## **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1. Independent evaluation of the Can Do programme has identified that community cohesion and social capital can be significantly enhanced through local projects that bring people together for healthy activity or to learn about healthier behaviours. Ethnic minorities and women have been particularly identified as beneficiaries of this approach.

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

- 7.1 Projects that support healthier lives also generally contribute to a greener environment for example gardening and food growing and active travel such as walking and cycling,

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1. No significant risks are identified.

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

9. For reasons identified above healthy projects can continue significant to reduced fear of crime in localities, for example by bringing under-used areas back into community use.

## **10. BEST VALUE**

- 10.1 In the procurement of the Can Do Development programme contracts the Council has complied with the relevant legislation and the Council's procurement procedures as set out above in the Legal Comments section. A robust quarterly monitoring process is in place and providers are required to meet appropriate performance management requirements before payments are issued. Grant agreements proportionate to the level of grant are in place and grant recipients are required to account for expenditure of all and any funds advanced and to report back on the outcomes of the project supported

## **11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 No safeguarding risks are identified.

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

#### **Linked Report**

- None

#### **Appendices**

- Can Do Award Application Form

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

- None

**Officer contact details for documents: N/A**

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tower hamlets



can do  
community grants

change  
4 life  
Eat well Move more Live longer

# Community Led Projects

## Application Form

LAP's 7&8  
Island House

• PROJECT GRANTS OF UP TO £500 •



Can Do  
Community Led Projects

## Can Do Application Guidance

<b>All applications have to meet the following criteria, you need to answer yes to all!</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Office Use</b>
• The idea of an individual community member or informal, small community group, who will lead the activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Small, voluntary community-based activity, not designed by paid workers nor part of a larger organization.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• The project will support those involved to develop their skills	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• At least 85% of beneficiaries are from Tower Hamlets	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• The project is new, or a new development of existing activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• The project provides good value for money	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• The project will be run in the paired LAP area being applied to.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>Can Do will support projects that make Tower Hamlets a healthier environment and meet one or more of the following priorities</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Office Use</b>
• Active Lives ~ e.g. more physical activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Active Travel ~ e.g. cycling or walking your usual routes	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Healthy Food ~ e.g. grow your own food projects	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Improving Environment ~ e.g. caring for your estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	

The following **cannot** be funded:-

• Applicants that are paid to run the project
• Promotion of a political or religious ideology or overseas travel
• Projects that are already funded or have already happened
• The purchase or improvement of a building

## Applications from young people under 18 yrs

We welcome applications from young people. Where an applicant is under 18 years of age it is necessary to have a sponsor who will guarantee to support them throughout the project. The sponsor must provide their contact details and signature in section 6 of the application form.

**Office Use**



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## 1. Your details

The name of your activity / project to be supported:

How many people will be involved in running your project?
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Are you all local Tower Hamlets residents / community members?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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If no, explain who else is involved:
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### Main Contact's Details

First name:	Last name:	
Home or contact address:		
	Postcode:	
How would you like us to contact you?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Home phone:	<input type="checkbox"/> Work phone:	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile:
<input type="checkbox"/> Email address:		

## 2. Your community

a) Which community in your area do you aim to benefit? A category of people (e.g. young people), neighbourhood (e.g. Ocean Estate) or community of interest (e.g. African women etc):

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b) Will at least 85% of beneficiaries be from Tower Hamlets?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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c) How many people do you plan to reach through this project? Please tick one box:

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 11-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 25-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 50 or over
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d) Where will this project take place? Try to be precise; e.g. location, venue, centre, including postcode (Must take place in paired LAP area).

### 3. Your project or idea

a) Describe in no more than 200 words the project activity you would like to organise? Try to describe how you plan to carry out the project, what the budget will be spent on, and including the steps you will take to make your idea work:

b) When do you hope this project will start?

c) How many sessions or events will you run and when will these be?

d) When will this project be complete? (Note: The project must be reported on, and all Can Do budget spent, **by September 2015**, even if the project can continue beyond that date).

e) Who else is involved in organizing / leading this project? How will they help you? What is/are their role(s)?

f) Which of the four Can Do priorities does your project meet? (You can tick more than one, if relevant, but if you do, please indicate which one the main priority area)

<input type="checkbox"/> Active Lives	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Travel	<input type="checkbox"/> Healthy Eating	<input type="checkbox"/> Improving Environment
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Please describe how your project will meet the priorities you have ticked above?

g) How will you know this project has been successful (how will you measure its success)?

#### 4. You and your experience

a) Why do you want to carry out this project? What is your motivation or incentive?

b) Do you need help in turning this idea into reality? The Can Do programme is keen to support you to develop relevant skills so please list any training that might help you.

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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If yes, what assistance could benefit you?

c) If successful, which of the following free Can Do training courses might you or your colleagues be interested in attending?

Fundraising?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project Management?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basic First Aid?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food Safety / Food Hygiene?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Food Growing?	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify).....?	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 5. The future

If your project goes well, what do you see happening next, after the Can Do Support ends in September 2014? What are your long term goals? Will the project end, or how might it continue?

## 6. Budget

Please provide a breakdown of the things you will need to carry out the project.

- Include as much detail as you can about the cost of every type of thing that you need to pay for.
- You can include things that will be donated (in kind) or that you will borrow; this will show that you have thought about how to make the best use of local resources.
- You can use the Notes column to explain why the item is needed or to say if the cost is a quotation.

Item	Details : (eg rate/number of items)	£ . p	Notes
	<i>Total cost of project</i>	£	
	<i>Amount requested from CanDo</i>	£	
<p align="center"><b><i>If the amount requested is less than the total project cost, please say how you will raise the balance and if this is secured or not?</i></b></p>			

## 7. Declaration

**Can Do start up support is only offered to individuals who will carry out their project on a voluntary basis.** Please read & sign the following statements:

I confirm that I will carry out the project activity described in this form on a voluntary basis.	
Your name:	
Your signature:	Date:
Are you under 18? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
If yes, you will need a sponsor to countersign this form. Please pit your sponsors details below:-	
Sponsor's name:	
Sponsor's signature:	Date:
Sponsor's Contact Address:	
	Postcode:
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor's Email address:	
Relationship with applicant:	



The Closing Date for application forms to be received is:

**10am Monday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015**

Please return your completed form by hand, in post or by email to the Community Development Worker for the area where your project is primarily based from the list below:

## NW Ward Cluster

Weavers, St Peters,  
Bethnal Green, Spitalfields & Banglatown

### Osmani Centre

58 Underwood Road,  
E1 5AW



**osmanITRUST**

Community Development Worker:

**Alema Akthar**

Email: [cando@osmanitrust.org](mailto:cando@osmanitrust.org)

Tel: 0207 247 8080

Mob: 07538 325154

## NE Ward Cluster

Bow West, Bow East, Mile End, Bromley  
North, Bromley South

### Bromley by Bow Centre

St Leonards Street,  
E3 3BT



bromley by bow centre

Community Development Worker:

Name: ...

Email: ....

Tel: ...

Mob: ...

## SW Ward Cluster

Whitechapel, Stepney Green, St Dunstan's,  
Shadwell, St Katherine's & Wapping

### Island House

Roserton Street  
E14 3PG



Community Development Worker:

**Cathy Weir**

Email: [cando@island-house.org](mailto:cando@island-house.org)

Tel. 0207 531 0312

## SE Ward Cluster

Limehouse, Lansbury, Poplar, Island G'dns,  
Canary Wharf, Blackwall & Cubbit Town

### Island House

Roserton Street  
E14 3PG



Community Development Worker:

**Cathy Weir**

Email: [cando@island-house.org](mailto:cando@island-house.org)

Tel. 0207 531 0312