

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**RECORD OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING
MEETING**

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2015

**C1, 1ST FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Sir Ken Knight	(Commissioner)
Chris Allison	(Commissioner)
Max Caller	(Commissioner)
Alan Wood	(Commissioner)

Councillors Present:

Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Clean and Green)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Leader of the Labour Group)
Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Khales Ahmed	

Officers Present:

Afazul Hoque	(Senior Strategy Policy & Performance Officer, One Tower Hamlets, Chief Executive's)
Jack Kerr	Strategy Policy & Performance Officer
Anthony Walters	(Transformation Manager, Education Social Care and Wellbeing)
Everett Haughton	(Third Sector Programmes Manager, Third Sector Team, Development and Renewal)
Chris Holme	(Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Dave Clark	(Acting Service Head Resources, Development and Renewal)
Gareth Platt	Business and Finance Officer Early Years Service
Monica Forty	Interim Service Head - Learning & Achievement

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of the notes of the meeting held on 20 May 2015 was deferred until the next meeting.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

A public submission was received relating to agenda item 5.3 and **tabled** at the meeting. The Chair thanked those organisations who had jointly provided the submission to the meeting. He advised that their evidence would be considered during discussion of the report and that officers would reply directly to the organisations where more detailed or specific responses were required.

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Early Learning for 2 Year Olds

Monica Forty, Interim Service Head for Learning and Achievement and Gareth Platt Business and Finance Officer Early Years' Service presented the report which concerned the scheme through which the Council intended to distribute capital funding awarded by the Department for Education for the provision of free part-time early years education for disadvantaged families.

The Councillors present indicated they had no observations to make.

The Commissioners discussed with officers how public money would be safeguarded in the event that any participating organisations were to become insolvent and how the proposals will meet demand. They then agreed the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. That the allocation of awards on the basis of the process set out in this report be approved and
2. That the responsible Corporate Director be delegated the authority to enter into agreements to give effect to that, and
3. That a report be sent to the Commissioners on a quarterly basis with details of the awards made.

5.2 Stairway to Heaven - Grant Application

Chris Holme, Acting Corporate Director, Resources, introduced the report setting out a proposal to make a contribution of up to £25,000 to the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust, a charity that has been raising funds for a memorial to remember the victims of the Bethnal Green Tube Disaster of 1943. The

proposal placed before Commissioners related to a budget proposal that was agreed by Council as part of the 2015/16 budget setting process.

The Commissioners then asked attending Members to respond to the proposal in the report. Councillors Shahed Ali, Rachael Saunders and Peter Golds provided responses.

The Commissioners considered the report and were concerned that the contribution might be held over to forthcoming financial years due to the Trust's current funding gap. They asked officers to ensure that the Trust was aware that the contribution was available under the 2015/16 budget only and on this basis agreed the recommendations as set out.

RESOLVED

1. That a grant of up to £25,000 to the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust be approved as agreed by Council as part of the 2015/16 budget setting process.
2. That the Acting Corporate Director of Resources, or his delegate, be authorised to agree the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, after consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

5.3 Tower Hamlets Community Fund

The Commissioners considered the matters raised in the written public submission in conjunction with this item.

Dave Clark, Acting Head of Resources, Development & Renewal introduced the report setting out proposals for a new Community Fund award which superseded two previous schemes and was aimed at small scale projects.

The Commissioners then asked Members to respond to the proposal in the report. Councillors Shahed Ali, Rachael Saunders and Peter Golds provided responses.

The Commissioners considered the report and noted the issues raised through Councillors and the public submission concerning, consultation, monitoring and capacity building in underrepresented areas of the borough. Commissioners agreed that the proposal needed to better balance probity and consultation. They resolved to not to approve the proposal as presented and requested officers to represent proposals after addressing the issues raised.

RESOLVED

1. That the proposed Tower Hamlets Community Fund in its current form not be proceeded with
2. That officers submit revised proposals taking into account the issues raised by Commissioners, Councillors and from the public submission.

5.4 One Tower Hamlets Fund

Afazul Hoque, Senior Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer introduced the report setting out proposal for grants of up to £7000 to strengthen community cohesion. The grant, in future years, would be incorporated into the Main Stream Grants Programme.

The Commissioners then asked Members to respond to the proposals in the report. Councillors Shahed Ali, Rachael Saunders, Khales Ahmed and Peter Golds provided responses.

The Commissioners considered the report and information provided by the Members. The Commissioners noted that the application by Community Solution lacked sufficient detail relating to their cohesion project and were minded not to approve this application. They therefore approved the following revised recommendations.

RESOLVED

1. That the proposed awards for One Tower Hamlets Fund totalling £37,638 to the organisations listed in table 1 of Appendix 2 except the award for Community Solutions be approved and also that the amounts listed there be approved.
2. That entry into Grant Agreements in support of each (approved) grant be approved.
3. That the Service Head Strategy and Equality be authorised to agree the terms and conditions of the grant agreement, after consultation with the Head of Legal Services
4. That feedback be given to organisations which have unsuccessfully applied for funding.

5.5 Independent Living Fund

Jack Kerr, Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer and Anthony Walters, Transformation Manager, Strategy, Partnerships and Performance introduced the report setting out a proposal to continue ILF payments for the final three quarters of 2015/16 to clients that were determined by DWP. Approval of the funding would protect the care and support needs of existing clients transferred to the Local Authority until they are mainstreamed into Adult Social Care.

The Councillors present indicated they had no observations to make.

The Commissioners supported the proposal and asked that a report be made annually informing them of how the funds have been used.

RESOLVED

1. That allocation of monies to ILF clients be considered a grant within the meaning of the Secretary of State's directions.
2. That the Corporate Director of Education, Social Care and Wellbeing to be delegated authority to make the awards until the end of 2015-16 in accordance with the criteria outlined in the report.
3. That an annual report of the monies spent be made to Commissioners.

5.6 Review of Discretionary Awards Recipients for the Academic Year 2014/15

Monica Forty, Interim Service Head for Learning and Achievement introduced the report seeking Commissioners' to consider the level of Discretionary Award Determination Commissioners wished to take up and reviewing the Council's discretionary awards policies.

The Commissioners then asked Members to respond to the proposals in the report. Councillors Shahed Ali, Rachael Saunders Khales Uddin Ahmed and Peter Golds provided responses.

Commissioners considered the report and responses. They noted there was support for all the awards in principle but that there were some concerns around payment of the Education Award in one sum and the availability of quantitative outcome data in respect of the Higher Education Award. The Commissioners considered that discretionary awards as set out at appendices 1-3 should be approved for school aged children and that proposals for awards to students over compulsory school age be reviewed and represented for discussion at a future meeting.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council making discretionary awards in respect of specified groups of students over compulsory school age in 2015/16 in the areas in respect of which policies are set out in appendices 1 to 3 be approved
2. That the policy in Appendix 1 for the provision by the Council of school clothing grants in 2015/2016 within the budget specified in paragraph 5.2 of this report be approved.
3. That the policy in Appendix 2 for the provision of the Budget Holding Lead Professional Scheme for Attendance Support in 2015/2016 within the budget specified in paragraph 5.2 of this report be approved.

4. That the policy in Appendix 3 for the provision by the Council of discretionary awards in support of education travel in 2015/2016 within the budget specified in paragraph 5.2 of this report be approved.
5. That the existing recipients of the Education Award continue to receive funds in accordance with the original agreement but that no new awards be made under the existing scheme. Officers are instructed to report to a future meeting on a revised policy which better targeted need and contained proposals for measurable outcomes.
6. That existing recipients of the Higher Education Award continue to receive funds in accordance with the original agreement but that no new awards be made under the existing scheme. Officers are instructed to report to a future meeting on a revised policy which better targeted need and contained proposals for measurable outcomes.

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

Chair: Sir Ken Knight
COMMISSIONER