

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 13 MAY 2015

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

Members Present:

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

Councillors Present:

Councillor Peter Golds	(Leader of the Conservative Group)
Councillor Rachael Saunders	(Leader of the Labour Group)
Councillor Shahed Ali	(Cabinet Member for Clean and Green)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Community Safety)
Councillor Craig Aston	
Councillor Shafiqul Haque	(Cabinet Member for Culture)
Councillor Gulam Robbani	(Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services)
Councillor Andrew Wood	

Officers Present:

Dr Somen Banerjee	(Interim Director of Public Health, LBTH)
Dave Clark	(Acting Service Head Resources, Development and Renewal)
Chris Holme	(Acting Corporate Director - Resources)
Shazia Hussain	(Service Head Culture, Learning and Leisure, Communities Localities & Culture)
Keith Williams	(Head of Health Borough Programme)
Matthew Mannion	(Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services, LPG)
Antonella Burgio	(Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Commissioner Chris Allison.

2. DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The decisions of the meeting held on 22 April 2015 were approved as a correct record of proceedings.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

No public submission requests were received for consideration.

5. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 Can Do Development Programme - Local Project Support Awards

The Commissioners agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report.

Dr Somen Banerjee, Director of Public Health summarised the report which concerned funding for small local projects to support healthier living.

The Commissioners considered submissions from Councillors Shahed Ali, Rachel Saunders and Peter Golds and received responses to their questions from Dr Banerjee and Keith Williams, Public Health Commissioning Programme Manager. They noted that the request had been made urgently as the programme had stopped for five months which created risks for its continuation and the utilisation of the summer months for outdoor activity.

The Commissioners agreed the recommendations as set out in the report and requested that an additional two clauses be added concerned with monitoring outcomes.

RESOLVED

1. That the Can Do Programme local support grant awards scheme be approved
2. That the Corporate Director of Education, Social Care and Well Being be authorised to award the Can Do Programme local support grant awards through the Community Assessment Panels
3. That reports 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.
4. That a review be undertaken detailing what expenditure there has been over the past five years and the impacts of the initiatives on local health
5. That an annual report of outcomes achieved be made measuring these outcomes and how they have met community need and their impact on local health.

5.2 Boishaki Mela 2015 - Grant Application

The Commissioners agreed the reasons for urgency as set out in the report.

Chris Holme, Acting Corporate Director, Resources, introduced the report which concerned an application for support by the Boishaki Mela Trust which organised this longstanding community event. He noted that any support given must be cleared through this Trust. Additionally the Council had no legal liability to pay a grant. The Commissioners then heard representations from Councillors Shahed Ali, Rachel Saunders and Peter Golds. Chris Holme and Shazia Hussain, Service Head, Culture, Learning and Leisure answered Commissioners' questions relating to how well the organiser had fulfilled its obligations under the terms of the contract it had entered into with the Council in 2012.

In reaching their decisions, Commissioners took into account the following information that was provided at the meeting:

- The outcome of the Election Petition Hearing has placed the Boishaki Mela into an unforeseen pre-election period. Commissioners were not satisfied that the event fully excluded wider contexts than solely that of a community function and therefore felt that expenditure of public funds in this circumstance was not appropriate.
- The Trust has failed to fully implement the terms of its contract. In particular it was failing to fulfil its audit requirements to the Council, a condition which, under the terms of an Independent Review in 2012 was necessary for the grant of subsequent funds.
- An application of this kind was likely to fail to meet the requirements of the Main Stream Grants Programme
- For this year's event, the Trust would continue to benefit from the Council's "in kind" support to the value of £25,000 and the free use of Victoria Park.

The Commissioners therefore agreed the following recommendations.

RESOLVED

1. That the 2015 Boishakhi Mela is scheduled to take place on the 17th May in Victoria Park, and that responsibility for arranging and managing the event rests with the Boishakhi Mela Community Trust Ltd be noted.
2. That the requirement, under the agreement with the Trust, for the Council to provide a number of services free of charge, as outlined in paragraph 3.7, which represent a subsidy estimated to be £25,000 be noted.
3. That the position with regard to 2013 and 2014 conditions and payments set out in paragraphs 3.10 to 3.14 of the report be noted.

4. That the amount sought from the Trust for 2015 (para. 3.20) be noted
5. To note that following the outcome of the Election Hearing, and subsequent Mayoral election and Ward of Stepney by-election, the Mela will take place during the pre-election period (paras. 3.21 to 3.23) and resulting from this the Commissioners have agreed not to approve grant to support the 2015 Boishakhi Mela
6. That consideration for 2016 and 2017 grant support be regularised as part of the 2015-18 mainstream grants process, as outlined in paragraph 3.28
7. That the equalities assessment set out as Appendix A to the report be noted.

5.3 Stepney City Farm Educational Facilities

The item was deferred as it had not received the necessary clearances in time for the meeting which had been called at short notice.

The meeting ended at 7.28 p.m.

**Sir Ken Knight
COMMISSIONER**