

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

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

HELD AT 4.00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2016

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

Members Present:

Sir Ken Knight (Chair) (Commissioner)
Max Caller (Commissioner)

Councillors Present:

Officers Present:

Zena Cooke (Corporate Director, Resources)
Alison Denning (Festivals and Events Officer, Communities
Localities and Culture)
Daniel Fordham (Business Partnerships Manager)
Everett Haughton (Third Sector Programmes Manager, Third Sector
Team, Development and Renewal)
Chris Holme (Service Head, Resources & Economic
Development)
Stephen Murray (Head of Arts and Events, Communities Localities
& Culture)
Seye Aina (Committee Services Officer)
Antonella Burgio (Democratic Services)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Commissioners Alan Wood and
Chris Allison.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made.

3. DECISIONS OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The published decisions of the meeting held on 12 January 2016 were noted
and signed as a corrected record of proceedings.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

The Commissioners were informed that there had been no requests to make a public submission relating to any item published in the agenda.

5. EXERCISE OF COMMISSIONERS' DISCRETIONS

Commissioner Max Caller commented on the report, tabled at the meeting, which listed urgent expedited decisions that had been taken by Commissioners on 9th February 2016, informing all present that for the open and transparent administration of grants it was necessary that:

- all documents should be circulated at the time of agenda publication in order to give proper notice in public of urgent decisions taken using these powers.
- grant requests that had been refused under these powers should also be reported.

Councillor Saunders requested that details of the sum applied for and that awarded also be included.

Commissioners therefore

RESOLVED

That the report:

1. be deferred to the next meeting to enable appropriate public notice to be given
2. include details of grant applications that have been refused
3. include details of the value of the grant applied for and the sum awarded

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Event Fund - Report on Event Fund Awards 2015-16 Quarter 3

Stephen Murray, Head of Arts and Events, introduced the report which reported the grants issued from the Event Fund under officer delegation in the period October – December 2015. Alison Denning, Festivals and Events Officer informed Commissioners, that to ensure uptake from all parts of the borough, THCVS had been asked to assist with engaging hard to reach groups.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders and Councillor Golds to comment on the report and they indicated that they supported the approach being taken to ensure that a wide and more even geographical spread of funding could be achieved.

Commissioner Max Caller advised that Commissioners the proposals to report on user profiles to ensure that diversity and spread of events may be

preserved. To further promote this, he suggested that in future the Council should also initiate bids in chosen target areas.

RESOLVED

1. That the quarterly report of Event Fund Grant awards made and approved by Service Head for Culture Leisure and Learning for events that took place in October, November and December 2015 be noted
2. That the Council develop a scheme to initiate bids in target areas and report on the profile of participants to future meetings

6.2 Grant payment to Local Town Team for Roman Road Summer Festival 2016

Chris Holme, Service Head, Resources & Economic Development, introduced the report which concerned a request to transfer a grant of £15,000, derived from S106 monies, to Roman Road Trust for the delivery of a summer festival in 2016. Issue of the grant would be made under appropriate monitoring arrangements.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders and Councillor Golds to comment on the proposals and they indicated that they supported the application.

Commissioner Max Caller enquired and Daniel Fordham, Business Partnerships Manager, confirmed that the Council will provide in kind support in addition to the grant. The Chair noted that while Commissioners supported the application in principle, the value of any in kind support must be specified as it was part of the grant package.

RESOLVED

1. That the payment of a grant for £15,000 to the Roman Road Trust from Section 106 monies to match fund the delivery of a community event in Roman Road Town Centre be approved
2. That a report detailing the costs of the in kind support to be provided by the Council be made at the next Commissioners Decision Making Meeting.

6.3 London Councils ESF Scheme

Everett Haughton, Third Sector Programmes Manager, introduced the report which concerned a European Social Fund (ESF) match-funded contribution to a three-year programme which aimed to support hard-to-employ individuals back into work.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders and Councillor Golds to comment on the proposals and they indicated that they supported the application.

Commissioners noted their support for the scheme and approved the request.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council's match-funding contribution of £225,000 to be made to London Councils for each of the 3 financial years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 be approved.
2. That the financing mechanism is set out within paragraphs 3.2 & 3.3 be endorsed.
3. That it be noted that the Council will enter into formal contractual arrangements with London Councils to deliver the Tower Hamlets ESF Community Grants Programme 2016/19: as set out in paragraph 3.2 & 3.3.
4. That the authority for the awarding of grants to organisations be delegated to the Appraisal Panel which will include the Director of Resources or her nominee as set out in paragraph 3.17.

6.4 Grants Register 2016/17

Everett Haughton, Third Sector Programmes Manager, introduced the report which provided an update on the development of a grants register. This had arisen from a Commissioners' request that a register of all grants made across all areas of the Council be established.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders and Councillor Golds to comment on the report and they indicated that they supported the principal although they were concerned that the draft register contained some inaccuracies.

Zena Cooke, Director of Resources, advised that the draft register presented indicated the present position and would form the basis of an audit trail for future Grants Registers which would be updated regularly.

Commissioners welcomed the work that had been undertaken and the progress made towards a full register of grants provided to the community. They requested that any reported inaccuracies be addressed, that the register also record where delegation of grants decisions had been returned to the Council, including the name of the officer to whom the decision had been delegated.

RESOLVED

1. That the report and the comments of Commissioners be noted
2. That it be noted that a detailed report with a fully completed Grants Register will be presented to the April Commissioners Decision Making Meeting in Public.

6.5 Initial Proposals for a Cross Party Forum on Grants

Zena Cooke, Director of Resources, presented the report which set out proposals for a cross-party forum to review and input into the grants decision making process through the establishment of an appropriate arrangement involving elected Members.

The Chair invited Councillor Saunders and Councillor Golds to comment on the proposals and they indicated that they supported the approach being taken.

Commissioner Max Caller commented that he welcomed the proposals which will strengthen transparency, where a cross-party mechanism will enable all views to be expressed and will remind Members about proper disclosure of declarations of interests and appropriate participation in discussion on organisations. He was disappointed that much time had been required to bring forward the proposals. The Chair noted that the proposals were the first element of a process to introduce cross-party participation which would later require a change of the Constitution in regard to the role of Overview and Scrutiny and a move to cross-party input supported by appropriate member training.

Commissioners anticipated good progress and, subject to this, would later review whether a role for an elected Member to sit alongside Commissioners in grant making could be evolved.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council's proposal be agreed in principle that a Sub-Committee of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should act as the "cross-party forum" to be established to review Officer recommendations prior to their consideration at a Decision Making Meeting to the satisfaction of the Commissioners requirement that a suitable mechanism be established to advise them.
2. That it be agreed in principle that all reports requiring a Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting in Public are presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee on grants for their consideration in accordance with the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee Forward Plan.
3. That a further report be received at the April Commissioners' Decision making meeting which will set out the detailed proposals including clear terms of reference for the Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THE CHAIR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT

The Clerk, advised that she had received a request that an extraordinary Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting be convened on Tuesday 8 March 2016, at Town Hall, Mulberry Place at 11.00am to discuss an urgent matter.

Commissioners agreed that this meeting be convened.

The meeting ended at 4.40 p.m.

Chair: Sir Ken Knight
COMMISSIONER