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Tower Hamlets CVS St Margaret's House 15a Old Ford Road London E2 9PL  
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8<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Sir Ken Knight  
Chief Commissioner  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG

Dear Sir Ken,

**Public submission from THCVS for the Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

We write in relation to two items on the agenda for the Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016; the report "Support for the VCS and the Innovation Fund" and the item "Exercise of Commissioners' Discretion", relating to Emergency Funding Decisions.

In relation to the "Support for the VCS and Innovation Fund" proposals, THCVS are supportive of the recommendations contained in the paper. We are pleased there is a plan that will allow Community Fund resources to be released and to provide local voluntary organisations with much needed capacity building support. We have had initial discussions with the council about this proposal and we look forward to working with the council, and with local partner organisations, to develop the scope of the support that will be provided. We also welcome the proposed new Innovation Fund, and are pleased that council officers are proposing to coproduce the criteria, process and timetable with the voluntary and community sector.

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We thank you for providing detail of decisions made on the 9<sup>th</sup> February and 22<sup>nd</sup> March relating to unsuccessful Emergency Funding applications. Whilst we recognise the need to make these decisions quickly (and therefore outside of the normal public decision making meetings) we would still welcome information about the rationale for the decisions made, that would be available were the decisions made in public. We believe that a full understanding of how the grant award decisions were made would particularly benefit applicants to the Emergency Fund - the high proportion of unsuccessful applications suggests to us that organisations are unclear of the criteria for awarding of Emergency Funding.

Thank you for your time in considering our letter,

Yours sincerely,



**Kirsty Cornell**  
CEO  
THCVS

Cc Zena Cooke  
Steve Hill  
Everett Haughton