

## **Actions from Previous Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

The Commissioners Decision Making Meeting in Public took place on 24 May 2016 and there were a number of comments/actions relating to the MSG 2015-18 Performance Report for period 1 September to December 2015.

Each comment is addressed below and the relevant section in the MSG 2015-18 Performance Report for period 2 January to March 2016 is referenced.

*Cllr John Pierce, chair of the Grants Scrutiny Sub Committee (GSSC) welcomed the report. These regular Performance Reports would be considered as part of the GSSC meetings.*

*Additionally GSSC:*

- was looking for improvements in some of the reporting processes especially those concerning grants of less of less than £10,000.*
- was interested to ensure that multiple applications from organisations presenting themselves under different identities would be prevented*
- wished to be able to fully utilise the “Gift” system/application to enable interactive information to be accessed for better governance monitoring.*

The GSSC will be a useful body to provide feedback and help improve the performance reporting.

*Commissioners Alan Woods and Chris Allison recommended that community organisations should only be requested to submit data essential to enable proper monitoring, but avoid burdensome bureaucracy. It was important that the authority receive good quality data but it was also necessary to not to impose too much bureaucracy.*

Section 3.12.1 Online Monitoring set out the actions taken to simplify the form and reduce the data requested to be submitted while still collecting sufficient data for robust monitoring. This is an ongoing process with input by the sector and further proposals are anticipated to follow.

*Mayor Biggs welcomed the performance information reported on the whole. However*

- he wished to know the basis which emergency funding for third sector organisations operated. The Chair noted the request and agreed that further information would be provided outside of the meeting.*
- he suggested that performance monitoring should be on the basis of users of the services provided by the organisations. He was informed that such data could be provided but confidentiality issues may arise through this method of monitoring.*

*Councillor Rachel Saunders provided the following feedback:*

- *the presentation of data according to Ward cluster is was not useful as each area had different characteristics and therefore could not serve as comparator. She asked that performance data should compare like with like*

Appendix 2 Beneficiaries Data chart now includes the ward population and number of councillors per ward in addition to the wards being listed in Index of Multiple Deprivation order. It is the intention for the regular performance reports to provide useful data and feedback is welcomed and will be taken into account in devising future reports.

- *She also noted that City Gateway had met with her to advise that they had decided to deliver their project from another location and therefore the grant should not be withdrawn at this stage.*

Section 3.5.8 (vi) gives an update on the City Gateway project. Although continuing to be Red due to not delivering the project there are actions still to be completed before a further recommendation is made.

*Commissioner Max Caller:*

- *noted that at an earlier meeting, Commissioners had agreed a variation of the RAG approach on the basis that organisations would come forward with action plans rather than wait for formal monitoring visits. Zena Cooke advised that since January 2016 all had signed up to online monitoring and officers were receiving approaches from these organisations in the current quarter.*

Appendix 1 shows the RAG rating for Period 2 January to March 2016. The RAG rating was calculated using the revised approach agreed at the January 2016 Commissioners meeting.

- *agreed that Ward comparisons did not provide a good method for ensuring that key community areas had been targeted and that the Council needs to ask for proper data to ensure that it can obtain meaningful information without excessive bureaucracy.*

Alternatives to Wards could be Super Output Areas which is a smaller geographical area. To report on beneficiaries within these areas we would need to collect post code data. In general it is always the intention to ask for proper data in order to report meaningful information. This is a process of continuous improvement and all suggestions will be considered.

- *asked that the performance of the Somali Parents and Childrens Play association project be reassessed by the officers to be consistent with other ratings and the results be reported back*

Appendix 1 shows the RAG rating and comments for the two Somali Parents and Children's Play Association projects (Theme 1 – Sports, Theme 5 – Community Engagement, Cohesion and Resilience) for the January to March 2016 period. There are specific issues with the Theme 5 project that need to

be resolved prior to the next payment which has resulted in the rating being Amber for the period. One Grant Officer looks after all Theme 5 projects so this encourages a consistent approach to these projects. A specific report on the organisation/project can be provided.

- *expressed concern around inconsistencies shown towards some organisations around premises leases, in particular the payment in error to the Bangladeshi Youth Movement and the 2 payments to the Osmani Development trust in contravention of earlier CDMM decisions*

3.5.1 Community Building Leases – The payment errors have been subject to an investigation and a separate report setting out the chronology and actions taken as a result of the error is being produced for Commissioners.

- *the following actions to conclude outstanding lease issues; Bangladeshi Youth Movement be requested to provide an indication of timescales; Osmani Trust be given a period of three months to develop proposals for a lease after which MSG would be withdrawn if the lease arrangement could not be complete concluded.*
- *requested that Co-optees Mayor Biggs and Councillor Rachel Saunders should henceforth be copied into reports which are presented to commissioners for signature.*

*The Chair responding to the feedback given, suggested that officers re-examine the data to look at how it could be made more meaningful. Notwithstanding the improvements suggested, all agreed the report had provided useful data on the use of grants by community organisations.*

**RESOLVED**

*That the contents of the report be noted*

*That the recommendations made by Commissioners and Co-optees be incorporated into future performance reports*

Resolved and implemented.

*That the completion of suitable property agreements with Deaf Plus, Wapping Bangladesh Association, Dorset Community Association and Stifford Centre be noted and that normal release of MSG funds be approved subject to standard arrangements for monitoring.*

Section 3.5.1 Community Building Leases includes an update on the organisations subject to a Premises Condition. Appendix 1 shows payments made to the funded organisations.

*That provided the license for the Somali Senior Citizens Club is completed MSG be released following Commissioners Decision.*

On 14 June 2016 Commissioners met in public and agreed a grant for the Somali Senior Citizens Club subject to receipt of a signed licence agreement from the organisation.

*That the programme for completion of the works at the Limehouse Project be monitored so that on completion of the lease formalities by the end of August 2016 their MSG can be released.*

Section 3.5.1 Community Building Leases includes an update on the organisations subject to a Premises condition. The latest Action Log produced by Asset Management will include key dates for the completion of works.

*That once the Bangladeshi Youth Movement have formally relinquished occupation of the Berners Centre their MSG can be paid but that no interim payment be made in the meantime*

*and that as far as the Osmani Development trust is concerned a lease which is capable of being recommended to Cabinet and approved by Commissioners be offered and provided this is completed by no later than 24th August 2016 MSG be released but that no further interim payments be made and that in the event that this deadline is missed the offer of MSG be withdrawn.*

If the deadline of 24th August 2016 is missed the recommendation for the grant to be withdrawn will be included in the period 4 July to August 2016 Performance Report.

*As far as the Childrens Education Group is concerned officers be instructed to report an achievable timeline at the earliest opportunity*

Section 3.5.1 Community Building Leases includes an update on the organisations subject to a Premises Condition. Officers have met with the Childrens Education Group and progress is being made.

*That the project Young People Study Support under Theme 1 at paragraph 3.12.4 have its MSG allocation withdrawn but that a decision on the Back on track Engagement project be deferred to the next monitoring report to allow them the opportunity to commence the project in a new location.*

The Young People Study Support project is no longer classed as ‘live’ in the January – March 2016 Performance Report. Section 3.5.8 (vi) gives an update on the City Gateway project.