


Commissioner Decision Report 27 September 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director Resources	Classification: Unrestricted
Grants Register - Moving to Commissioning (review outcomes)	

Originating Officer(s)	Mohammed Ahad – Community Programmes Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	Yes
Community Plan Theme	One Tower Hamlets

Executive Summary

A key action within the refreshed Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy is to move Council grants, where appropriate, to an outcome based commissioned approach. At their meeting on the 14th June 2016, Commissioners requested a noting report on what grants would be commissioned in future. This report was noted by Commissioners at their meeting on the 5th July 2016 and highlighted that a review of all grants was currently taking place and the outcome would be reported to Commissioners at their next meeting. This report details the outcome of that review.

Recommendations:

The Commissioners are recommended to:

1. Note the 4 grants that are to be commissioned in future, as detailed in paragraph 3.4.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 A review of existing Council grants is required in order to identify which grants are to be commissioned in future. This review was necessary in order to meet some of the actions within the VCS Strategy Action, including identifying “*clear processes for transitioning specific grant funding streams to commissioning*”.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Refreshing the VCS Strategy and developing a new action plan was an action in the Best Value Action Plan. Work has now commenced on delivering against the VCS Strategy action plan, including moving towards an outcome based commissioned approach where appropriate. No alternative options are proposed.

3. DETAILS OF REPORT

3.1 After extensive consultation with the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services, the Voluntary and Community Sector, Businesses, Council staff, elected members and Commissioners the refreshed VCS Strategy and Action Plan was approved by the Mayor in Cabinet on 5th April 2016.

3.2 A key part of the strategy is a move from grant funding to commissioned services to provide long term certainty and stability. In particular the Strategy highlights:

“All council funding to the VCS will be reviewed to ensure it is contributing to priority outcomes and with a general preference for commissioning rather than grants. The model will ensure that funding processes are transparent and fair and are clear on how provision is contributing to outcomes.

Grant funding will however remain appropriate in some circumstances, for specific purposes, where there is a clear case for funding to be provided by grant rather than commissioning and a clear benefit from doing so.

Findings from review

3.3 The Council’s grants register was used as a mechanism to identify which grants would be commissioned in future. The relevant grant leads in Directorates reviewed their existing grants to confirm the future arrangements for each grant and the timeframe for those that will become commissioned services.

3.4 The outcome of this review suggests that a large number of grants are likely to stay as grants rather move to commissioned services. Of the 47 grants on the register, 4 are proposed to be commissioned in future, these are detailed below:

	NAME OF GRANT	DIRECTORATE	BUDGET 2016/17	RECIPIENTS	PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION DATE
1	Mainstream Grants - 15 to 18 Programme (2015/2016)	Resources	£3,211,000	VCS Organisations	Some elements in 2018
2	Positive Activities for Young People	Children’s Services	£50,000	VCS Organisations	Summer programme out for tender in June 2016
3	Ben Jonson Road Improvement Works (s106 funding)	D&R	£250,000	Community	2017/18
4	Local Community Initiatives (s106 funding)	D&R	£318,000	Community	October 2016

- 3.5 It should be noted that a large number of grants are made directly to individual residents and are therefore unlikely to be commissioned, this is further detailed below. A full list of all grants and their commissioning intentions are detailed in appendix A.

Grant Recipients	No. of grants
VCS Organisations	11
Individual residents	10
Thames Reach	7
Schools	5
Community	4
Early years support providers	4
Private Landlords and Managing Agents	2
Businesses	1
Social Enterprise / Charities	1
Social Housing Beneficiaries	1
Tenants / removal companies	1
TOTAL	47

Next steps

- 3.6 The VCS Strategy details the process that is to be taken when moving grants to commissioning in that:

“There will be a coordinated process for transition from grants to commissioning for particular funding streams, which will be transparent and communicated in a clear and timely way to grant funded organisations.” As far as possible, the commissioning approach will be a collaborative one, taking into account procurement and other legal requirements. The exact approach will be tailored to the service being commissioned”.

- 3.7 Individual reports on each of the grants detailed in 3.4 above will be brought to Commissioners for consideration as required; these will take into consideration key aspects of the VCS strategy, including co-production with the Voluntary and Community Sector where possible.

- Work with the CVS / VCS on how the transition to commissioned services will take place and how they can be supported
- Details of how many grants are for VCS organisations Vs how many for local residents

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 This report sets out the outcome of the review of grants overseen by the Commissioners. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

- 5.1. Paragraph 3.1 of the report refers to the refreshed VCS strategy and Action plan that was approved by the Mayor in Cabinet on the 5th of April following extensive consultation with relevant stakeholders. A key part of that strategy is the move from grant funding to commissioning. This report identifies 4 grants that will move to commissioning arrangements following a review of existing grants.
- 5.2 The review recognises, as it should do, that it will continue to be appropriate to provide grant funding where there is a clear case for such funding to be provided and a clear benefit to the service being funded.
- 5.3 It is important that the council continues to work collaboratively with the relevant grant funded organisations during the transition process in line with commitments made in the VCS strategy.
- 5.3 The power of the commissioners to make decisions in relation to grants arises from directions made by the Secretary of State on 17 December 2014 pursuant to powers under sections 15(5) and 15(6) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the Directions). Paragraph 4(ii) and Annex B of the Directions together provide that, until 31st March 2017, the Council's functions in relation to grants will be exercised by appointed Commissioners, acting jointly or severally. This is subject to an exception in relation to grants made for the purposes of section 23 of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 under s.24 of that Act. (i.e disabled facilities grant)
- 5.4 When making decisions, the Council must have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful conduct under the Equality Act 2010, the need to advance equality of opportunity and the need to foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not (the public sector equality duty). A proportionate level of equality analysis is required to discharge the duty and information relevant to this is contained in the One Tower Hamlets section of the report
- 5.5 The Council has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency

and effectiveness. This is referred to as the Council's best value duty. Best Value considerations have also been addressed in paragraph 7 of the report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1. The Council's support of the voluntary and community sector through grants contributes to the delivery of One Tower Hamlets priorities and objectives.

7. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Refreshing the VCS Strategy was an action within the Best Value Action Plan. This report is related to implementing a key action in the VCS Strategy Action Plan regarding moving grants to a commissioned approach.

8. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

- 8.1 There are no immediate sustainable or environmental issues arising from this report.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The recommendations made in this report will minimise the risk of failing to implement the actions agreed in the VCS Strategy and Action Plan.

10. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no immediate Crime and Disorder reduction implications.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no safeguarding implications from the proposals detailed in the report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- **Cabinet 5 April 2016:** Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

Appendices

- Appendix A – Full list of grants

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

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Appendix A – Full list of grants

	NAME OF GRANT	DIRECTORATE	BUDGET 2016/17	RECIPIENTS	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	TO BE MOVED TO A COMMISSIONED SERVICE?	PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION DATE
1	Mainstream Grants - 15 to 18 Programme (2015/2016)	Resources	£ 3,211,000	VCS Organisations	Steve Hill	Yes, some elements	2018
2	Positive Activities for Young People	Children's Services	£ 50,000	VCS Organisations	Claire Belgard	Yes	Summer programme out for tender in June 2016
3	Ben Jonson Road Improvement Works (s106 funding)	D&R	£ 250,000	Community	Jackie Odunoye / Owen Whalley	Yes	2017/18
4	Local Community Initiatives (s106 funding)	D&R	£ 318,000	Community	Kevin Kewin / Owen Whalley	Yes	Oct-16
5	Zero Emissions Network	CLC	TBC	Businesses	Andy Bamber	No	N/A
6	Small Grants for Pensioners Groups 2016/17	Adult Services	£ 20,000	VCS Organisations	Barbara Disney	No	N/A
7	Mental Health User Led Grants 2016/18	Adult Services	£ 92,000	VCS Organisations	Carrie Kilpatrick	No	N/A
8	Youth Opportunities Fund	Children's Services	£ 45,000	VCS Organisations	Claire Belgard	No	N/A

9	The Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THE Partnership)	Children's Services	£ 300,000	Schools	Kate Bingham	No	N/A
10	Free School Meals (Years 3 - 6, Primary Schools)	Children's Services	£ 2,800,000	Individual residents	Kate Bingham	No	N/A
11	Independent Living Fund	Adult Services	£ 321,000	Individual residents	Luke Addams	No	N/A
12	School Cycle Grants	CLC	£ 6,000	Schools	Bola Akinfolarin	No	N/A
13	School Travel Plans Implementation Grants	CLC	£ 12,000	Schools	Bola Akinfolarin	No	N/A
14	School Walking Grants	CLC	£ 2,100	Schools	Bola Akinfolarin	No	N/A
15	Whitechapel High Street Fund	D&R	£ 400,000	Social Enterprise / Charities	Owen Whalley	No	N/A
16	Historic Buildings Grants	D&R	£ 171,000	VCS Organisations	Owen Whalley	No	N/A
17	Stepney City Farm Access Audit (s106)	D&R	£ 34,920	VCS Organisations	Jackie Odunoye / Owen Whalley	No	N/A
18	NDR Discretionary Relief	Resources	£13,000,000	Individual residents	Roger Jones	No	N/A

19	Events Fund	CLC	£ 52,500	Community	Shazia Hussain	No	N/A
20	Local Community Ward Forums	CLC	TBC	VCS Organisations	Shazia Hussain	No	N/A
21	Crisis and Support Grants	Resources	TBC	Individual residents	Steve Hill	No	N/A
22	Discretionary Housing Payments	Resources	TBC	Individual residents	Steve Hill	No	N/A
23	Emergency Funding (Revenue - Funding from Corporate Match Funding Budget)	Resources	£250,000 (tbc)	VCS Organisations	Steve Hill	No	N/A
24	Tower Hamlets ESF Community Grants 2016-2019	Resources	£ 225,000	VCS Organisations	Steve Hill	No	N/A
25	VCS and New Innovation Fund	Resources	£ 220,000	VCS Organisations	Steve Hill	No	N/A
26	Discretionary Awards: Budget Holding Lead Professional Attendance Support	Children's Services	£ 21,000	Schools	Terry Parkin	No	N/A
27	School Clothing Grants	Children's Services	£ 201,000	Individual residents	Terry Parkin	No	N/A

28	Discretionary Awards: Council's Higher Education Awards	Children's Services	£ 600,000	Individual residents	Terry Parkin / Steve Grocott	No	N/A
29	Discretionary Awards: Tower Hamlets Educational Maintenance Allowance	Children's Services	£ 370,000	Individual residents	Terry Parkin / Tim Williams / Sue Crane	No	N/A
30	Early Years Learning Programme - Capital	Children's Services	£ 3,314,000	Providers of early education for 2 year olds	Terry Parkin/Pauline Hoare	No	N/A
31	Early Years' Service Grant Funding (Training, Child-minder Start-up, Additional Needs, Special Projects)	Children's Services	£ 100,000	PVI Childcare Providers	Terry Parkin/Pauline Hoare	No	N/A
33	Discretionary Awards: 16 - 19 Travel	Children's Services	£ 5,000	Early years support providers	Terry Parkin/Terry Bryan	No	N/A
34	Annual Street Count	D&R	£ 750	Thames Reach	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
35	B&B budget – for rough sleepers where no other provision is available overnight	D&R	£ 1,500	Thames Reach	Jackie Odunoye	No* Service already commissioned but the payments to individuals remain as grants	N/A
36	DAAT – Brook Drive Rehabilitation Centre	D&R	£ 15,000	Thames Reach	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A

37	European Union and international reconnection budget	D&R	£ 5,000	Thames Reach	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
38	Extended Severe Weather Emergency Provision	D&R	£ 2,000	Thames Reach	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
39	Financial incentives for accommodation portfolio holders	D&R	£ 300,000	Private Landlords and Managing Agents	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
40	Financial incentives for the issuing of Assured Short-hold tenancies	D&R	£ 200,000	Private Landlords and Managing Agents	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
41	Ocean Regeneration Trust grant funding 2014/2015, 2015/2016 and 2016/2017	D&R	£ 80,000	Community	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
42	Personal service charge – Assessment beds provided by hostel accommodation as required for rough sleepers	D&R	£ 2,450	Thames Reach	Jackie Odunoye	No* Service already commissioned but the payments to individuals remain as grants	N/A
43	Personalised budgets for long term and entrenched rough sleepers	D&R	£ 10,000	Thames Reach	Jackie Odunoye	No* Service already commissioned but the payments to individuals remain as grants	N/A
44	Private Sector Renewal Grants (includes : Home Repairs Grant, Empty Properties Grant Discretionary Disabled	D&R	£ 1,000,000	Individual residents	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A

	Facilities Grant)						
45	Removal - Tenants giving up a 3 bedroom or larger home	D&R	£ 75,000	Tenants / removal companies	Jackie Odunoye	Yes - already re-commissioned	N/A
46	Temporary Accommodation grant	D&R	£ 300,000	Individual residents	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
47	Affordable Housing Grant 2016-19	D&R	£ 7,065,000	Social Housing Beneficiaries	Jackie Odunoye	No	N/A
	TOTAL		£35,271,982				