

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GRANTS PANEL

HELD AT 6.30 P.M. ON THURSDAY, 12 JUNE 2008

**M72, 7TH FLOOR, TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT,
LONDON, E14 2BG**

Members Present:

Councillor Clair Hawkins (Lead Member, Children's Services)
Councillor Abdal Ullah (Lead Member, Cleaner, Safer, Greener)
Councillor Alibor Choudhury (Lead Member, Employment and Skills)

Officers Present:

Angela L Lewis – (Community Resources Manager)
Graham White – (Interim Legal Team Manager, Legal Services,
Chief Executive's)
Zoe Folley – (Committee Officer, Democratic Services, Chief
Executive's)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2008/09

The Democratic Services Officer, opened the meeting and requested nominations for the election of Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09. Councillor A. Choudhury nominated Councillor A. Ullah for the position. There being no further nominations, it was:

Resolved

That Councillor A. Ullah be elected Chair of the Grants Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09.

COUNCILLOR A. ULLAH IN THE CHAIR

2. ELECTION OF VICE- CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2008/ 09

The Chair requested nominations for the election of Vice-Chair of the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09. Councillor A. Choudhury nominated Councillor C. Hawkins for the position. There being no further nominations, it was:

Resolved

That Councillor C. Hawkins be elected Vice - Chair of the Grants Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2008/09.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of:

Councillor M. Francis, Lead Member for Housing & Development
Councillor O. Ahmed, Lead Member for Health & Well Being
Councillor A. Ali (Deputy) Lead Member, Health & Well Being
Mr S Sipple, Head of Youth and Community Services

Resolved

That the apologies for absence be noted.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None reported.

5. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

The Chair **MOVED** and it was: -

Resolved:

That the unrestricted minutes of the ordinary meetings of the Grants Panel held on 18th March and 25th March 2008 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

6. DEPUTATIONS & PETITIONS

None received.

7. GRANTS PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE (GP 001/089)

The Chair introduced the report which set out the terms of reference; membership; quorum and future dates of the Grants Panel for the Municipal Year 2008/09 and then **MOVED** the recommendation set out in the report and it was:- .

Resolved:

That the Terms of Reference, membership and quorum for the Grants Panel as set out in Appendix A of the report (GP/001/089) be noted.

8. UNRESTRICTED REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

8.1 Youth Services Summer Projects 2008 (GP 002/089)

Angela Lewis, Community Resources Manager, at the request of the Chair, presented the report and summarised the salient points contained therein. The report asked the Grants Panel to consider and approve applications in respect of Summer Grants Projects for 2008.

A discussion then followed during which the following was noted:

- The Children's Services Leaflet 'Summer Fun' provided details of all the activities available to children in the area;
- The sum spent on producing the leaflet;
- That the leaflet had been sent to every home in the Borough and Children's Centre.

The Chair, Councillor Ullah, suggested that consideration be given to exploring more cost effective means of circulating the newsletter. He suggested the option of making an e-version available on the website through an interactive forum. He also suggested that consideration should be given to the desirability of placing some of the adverts on the website rather than in local newsletters as this might result in savings.

Councillor Hawkins considered that it was also important to ensure children with special learning requirements/visual problems were able to easy access the information.

Accordingly, the Chair, Councillor Ullah, and Councillor Hawkins proposed an additional recommendation, to that set out in the report, for the consideration of the Grant's Panel as follows: -

" That consideration be given to identifying more efficient ways and cost effective means of publicising the Summer Grants scheme including:

- i The option of having an interactive page for information on the scheme on the Council's web site;
- ii Greater use of website advertising;
- iii making available 'easy reading versions' of the newsletter for use by children with special needs and versions for use by the visually impaired.

The Members then continued their discussion of the report. During which , Ms Lewis addressed a series of further questions from Members on the following issues:

- Progress with the mapping exercise for the projects;
- Clarification of whether under represented groups in the Community

were being encouraged to submit applications for funding? Would the mapping exercise focus on this aim and seek to identify what was stopping them from applying? Would the consultation address this issue?

- Concerns about the number of girls involved in the activities being relatively low. What incentives were being offered to encourage their involvement in the organisations/activities?
- Information on the LAP areas each project fell under;
- whether the applicants awarded funding would be asked to provide match funding?

Councillor Hawkins asked whether an assessment criteria had been universally applied to all the applications given that the figures relating to the following organisations did not follow the same pattern as the other assessments: Acorn FC and Soccer Coaching, Grove Park Road, Rainham - pg 40 of the report, Alpha Grove Community Trust, Alpha Grove Community Centre, - pg 42 of the report, Martineau Estate, St George Town Hall, - pg 80, Redcoat Youth Project, St Georges Town Hall, pg 94 of the report .

The Chair, Councillor Ullah, expressed the view that the Redcoat Youth Project was carrying out good work and it was desirable to afford local children opportunities to participate in this scheme.

Accordingly, the Chair, Councillor Ullah and Councillor Hawkins proposed an additional recommendation to that set out in the report for the consideration of the Grants Panel as follows:

“ That the Corporate Director, Children Services, be authorised to review the following applications and, if appropriate, to increase the grant aid awarded under recommendation (1) of the report:

- i Acorn FC and Soccer Coaching, Grove Park Road, Rainham;
- ii Alpha Grove Community Trust, Alpha Grove Community Centre;
- iii Martineau Estate, St George Town Hall;
- iv Redcoat Youth Project, St Georges Town Hall,

Councillor Ullah also suggested that the projects awarded funding be encouraged to promote the need for healthy lifestyles and eating. Accordingly, he proposed an additional recommendation to that set out in the report for the consideration of Members as follows:

“That the projects awarded funding be encouraged to promote the Council’s key policies regarding the need for healthy lifestyles and eating and that information on this be included in the pack sent out to the applicants”

It was also requested that, in future, report authors be requested to be in attendance to present their reports at meetings and answer any questions at meetings.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Chair, Councillor Ullah, **Moved** that the recommendations contained in the report be adopted subject to the

inclusion of the additional recommendations proposed by Councillor Hawkins and himself and it was:

Resolved

1. That the proposals for the allocation of grant aid for Summer Project Grants in 2008 as summarised in Appendix A and set out in Appendix B of the report (GP 002/089) be agreed;
2. That the Corporate Director, Children Services, be authorised to review the following applications and, if appropriate, to increase the grant aid awarded under (1) above:
 - i Acorn FC and Soccer Coaching, Grove Park Road, Rainham;
 - ii Alpha Grove Community Trust, Alpha Grove Community Centre;
 - iii Martineau Estate, St George Town Hall;
 - iv Redcoat Youth Project, St Georges Town Hall,
3. That the projects awarded funding be encouraged to promote the Council's key policies regarding the need for healthy lifestyles and eating and that information on this be included in the pack sent out to the applicants;
4. That consideration be given to identifying more effective ways and cost effective means of publicising the Summer Grants scheme including:
 - i The option of having an interactive page for information on the scheme on the Council's web site;
 - ii Greater use of website advertising,
 - iii making available 'easy reading versions' of the newsletter for use by children with special needs and versions for use by the visually impaired.

9. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

There was no other urgent unrestricted business.

The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

Chair,
Grants Panel