

Appendix 3 – Summary of changes to original Funding agreements

In March 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic was having an impact with a national lockdown imminent the decision was taken by the Council to continue to fund projects through April to June with their scheduled payments. VCS organisations were best placed to support residents with the impact of Covid-19 and funded groups were encouraged to do what they could to support the borough response.

For Local Community Fund projects this meant that for some although they were supporting residents, including delivering food and medicine, providing volunteers and support by phone, they were not delivering activity as set out in their funding agreements.

Changes to funding agreements need to be agreed and while some changes just require officer approval a significant variation such as changing the aim of the project or the outcomes projects were working towards would need Committee approval.

The letter sent by the Mayor in March covers the April to June period and a further decision to continue funding in July to September covers that period.

From October 2020 projects were expected to deliver their projects as set out in the funding agreement.

Grant Officers have been working with the LCF organisations throughout the summer and supporting them as they adapted their services to deliver remotely using a variety of online resources.

The Local Community Fund is set up to be a flexible and responsive programme with a focus on continuous co-design. The Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are a way to measure progress to achieving outcomes rather than an end unto itself. Activity, indicators, targets can all change to improve the service to residents to achieve project outcomes and the aim of the project.

In many cases the project description, outcomes and indicators do not describe how activity is delivered and so there is not a change required, for example if an outcome is to improve the confidence levels of young women then this would be the same if activity is delivered in person or online.

Theme 1 Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
28	27	1	0

Minor changes - Amendments to wording of indicators to change reference to specific activities

Substantial change - Removal of indicator that involves holding public events

Theme 2 Digital Inclusion and Awareness

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
5	5	0	0

Minor changes - Amendments to wording to change reference to specific activities

Theme 3 Advice & Information

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
2	1	1	0

Substantial change - KPI 1 removed - This had been highlighted as a required change since July 2020. Volunteers need to be supervised and work in advice centres and not all advice centres are resourced in the same way to supervise and guide volunteers.

Theme 4 Employment & Skills

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
9	8	1	0

Minor changes – Project has changed their Project Title to better reflect the aim of the project, a project description has been amended to reflect the move to remote delivery.

Substantial change – the target for one KPI reduced for Year 2 with the intention to catch up in Year 3 and meet lifetime target

Theme 5 Community Safety

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
6	6	0	0

Minor changes – Project has changed their Project Title, amendments to indicator wording where specific activities stated

Infrastructure & Capacity Building

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
1	0	0	1

Significant Variation – change to volunteering element of the project agreed at Cabinet 21 October 2020