

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**MINUTES OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 5.35 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 1 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL, MULBERRY PLACE, 5 CLOVE CRESCENT, LONDON, E14 2BG**

**Members Present:**

Councillor Candida Ronald (Chair)	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Asma Begum	Deputy Mayor for Children, Youth Services, Education and Equalities (Statutory Deputy Mayor)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar (Substitute for Councillor Sirajul Islam)	Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Sports

**Other Councillors Present:**

None

**Officers Present:**

Awo Ahmed	(Programme Assessment and Monitoring Officer, Corporate Strategy & Policy, Communities Team, Governance)
Emily Fieran-Reed (on - line)	(Senior Strategy and Policy Manager, Corporate Strategy & Policy, Communities Team, Governance)
Jonathan Fox	(Principal Contracts Lawyer, Legal Services Governance)
Michael Ritchie	(Place Shaping Team Leader, Strategic Planning, Place)
Judith St John	(Director, Commissioning and Culture, Children's Services)
Zoe Folley	(Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Sirajul Islam – Councillor Sabina Akhtar was deputising

Councillor Leema Qureshi - Scrutiny Lead Resources

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Sabina Akhtar, declared a Non Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 6.3, One-off Restart Small Grants for Community Languages Providers as the Cabinet Member for the subject area. (Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit)

## **3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED:**

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Sub – Committee held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

The notes of the informal discussion of the Sub – Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 were also noted

## **4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS**

There were none

## **5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS**

None reported.

## **6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **6.1 TERMS OF REFERENCE REPORT**

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the Sub – Committee's Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2021/22 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to this report

### **6.2 Grant offer of £90,000 to Toynbee Hall for the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme**

Michael Ritchie (Place Shaping Team Leader, Strategic Planning, Place) presented the report. This related to the allocation of funding to the Toynbee Hall in relation to the Historic England's High Streets Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ).

It sought authority for LBTH (the lead partner for HSHAZ) to grant Toynbee Hall (who were the local Cultural Consortium lead) funding for the Petticoat Lane Cultural Programme.

The programme would be for a three year period to deliver a range of activities as part of a wider HSHAZ programme. The delivery of activities would be collectively decided by the Community Decision-Making Group', and

Toynbee Hall will ensure that the funds are spent by the Group according to agreed parameters and checks.

The Sub – Committee noted the scrutiny questions circulated on the items. It was also noted that the Committee worked with Toynbee Hall in relation to the administration of other grants such as the grant awarded to the organisation by the Committee in February 2021, as part of the HSHAZ programme. This new grant was a separate grant, which HE had made additional funding available for. It was therefore felt that since the Council already worked with Toynbee Hall, that this addressed the issues raised by the scrutiny questions about the effectiveness of the community decision making and value of money. The Sub – Committee welcomed the initiative.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Authorise the Corporate Director of Place to issue a third-party HSHAZ Local Cultural Programme agreement of £90,000 between LBTH and Toynbee Hall as the Cultural Consortium lead.
2. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into the grant agreement and any such other agreements required to affect the grant and the use of the grant as detailed in paragraph 1.

**6.3 One-off Restart Small Grants for Community Languages Providers**

Judith St John (Director, Commissioning and Culture, Children and Culture) presented the report

The Committee were advised of the background to this report – resulting from a Cabinet decision in December 2019 regarding Community Language Services. Due to which, it was resolved that following the closure of the service, this one off grant be made to help organisations deliver community language classes. Due to the impact of Covid 19 and the closure of classes, it has only recently been possible to bring forward this programme.

The following issues were noted.

- The proposal seeks authority for the East End Community Foundation - EECF (who already run the small grants programmes on behalf of LBTH) to manage this small grants programme of approximately £120,000.
- The aim of which was to support voluntary sector providers of community languages classes (mother tongue classes) with a one-off small restart grant, focused around 4 themes which were noted.
- The EECF has an excellent track record of working with the Council and administering Grants on behalf of the Council.
- There were around 35 - 40 provider organisations in Tower Hamlets that would be eligible for this funding.
- This would be a closed application process with a maximum grant of £3,000 per grant.

- There would be an additional fee of 8% fee to EECF for the administration of the funds.
- The Council had put in place criteria, ensuring the delivery of value for money amongst other key issues.
- If successful, it was proposed that the application process start in early September and run until early October 2021, with the intention of providing the organisations with a decision on their application by the end of November 2021. LBTH has representation on the EECF Board .

The Sub – Committee noted the scrutiny questions circulated on the items. Regarding the first question about organisations that had previously changed their name, it was confirmed that the existing community language providers would still be able to apply if they met the criteria. Regarding the question on match funding – it was noted that this was a one off grant and that there is no plans to provide or require any match funding.

The Committee discussed a number of issues as set out below:

- The Sub – Committee noted the need for the applicants to provide a viable business plans and the requirements around this
- That the fee charge was in addition to the £120,000 grant funding to be provided to organisations.
- The proposal to set a limit of £3k per award per organisation.
- Members requested that in the event of any surplus in the grant money available to organisation following the evaluation process, this is evenly distributed between the successful applicants.
- It was also noted that since organisations may have changed their name, that more than 35 providers may apply for a grant so this needed to be taken into account.
- The organisations who had previously received support, (as defined in the criteria) would be contacted and also offered help in applying for the funding by EECF.
- Regarding the application timetable, this has been guided by EECF and their requirements. Officers felt that this should offer them sufficient time to carry out the process given organisations may need support in applying.
- Members commented that the community language organisations provided valuable services. They welcomed that this proposal should help them to continue on a viable basis.

**RESOLVED:**

1. Approve the provision of a small grants programme of £120,000 for voluntary sector providers who wish to restart community language (mother tongue) classes.
2. To approve the East End Community Foundation (EECF) to administer this programme on behalf of the council. The cost of this will be 8% of the total fund or £9,600

3. To authorise the Director of Commissioning and Culture to approve the grants, following EECF's evaluation of the applications received and a report with recommendations presented to the EECF board.
4. If in the event of any surplus in the grant money available to organisations following the evaluation of applications received, this is evenly distributed between the successful applicants.

#### **6.4 VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority**

Awo Ahmed (Programme Assessment and Monitoring Officer, Corporate Strategy & Policy, Communities Team, Governance), presented the report

This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub - Committee.

This also sought agreement, for changes to the eligibility criteria in respect of the new theme of the Small Grants Programme, Recovery from Covid-19 Loneliness and Isolation. It also sought agreement to approve an extension of the grant variation for the Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grants Programme

Members welcome the update. It was felt that it provided a welcomed overview of the Council's grants programme and the work that is carried out in this regard.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. Note the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting.
2. Note the grant funding agreed through Individual Mayoral decision and cabinet from the Mayor's Covid Recovery Fund.
3. Note the new theme of the Small Grants Programme, Recovery from Covid-19 Loneliness and Isolation. And agree, for this theme only, the eligibility criterion for applications, relating to turnover not exceeding £250,000 per annum be waived.
4. Approve the extension of the grant variation for the Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grants Programme that was approved at Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020 for a further 12 months, from October 2021 to September 2022.

#### **7. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

None

The meeting ended at 6.10 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Candida Ronald  
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee