

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 6.15 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 6 JULY 2022

COMMITTEE ROOM ONE - TOWN HALL MULBERRY PLACE

Members Present:

Councillor Kabir Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Inclusive Development and Housebuilding)
Councillor Ohid Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Safer Communities)
Councillor Saied Ahmed	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Cost of Living)
Mayor Lutfur Rahman	(Executive Mayor)

Officers Present:

Catherine Boyd	Interim Head of Arts, Parks and Events
Jonathan Fox	(Principal Contracts Lawyer, Legal Services Governance)
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Jaber Khan	Strategy and (Policy Officer, Corporate Strategy and Communities Team Strategy, Improvement and Transformation Division)
Anna Zucchelli	(Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place)
Mark Waterman	(Senior VCS Development Officer, Strategy, Improvement & Transformation Service)
Judith St John	(Director, Commissioning and Culture, Children's Services)
Zoe Folley	(Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Chief Executive's Office)

1. TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR THE SUB - COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Kabir Ahmed and was **RESOLVED:**

1. That Mayor Lutfur Rahman be appointed Chair of the Grants Determination Sub - Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/2023.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Sabina Khan , Scrutiny Lead, Resources

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None declared

4. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED:

1. The minutes of the meeting of the Sub – Committee held on 9th March 2022 be approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

5. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were none.

6. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

There were none.

7. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1 Grants Determination Sub-Committee - Terms of Reference

The Grants Sub – Committee considered the report.

The Mayor requested that for next meeting a report is presented, setting out all identified grants and the relevant levels of delegations.

RESOLVED:

1. To note the Grants Determination Sub – Committee’s Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to this report.
2. To agree the following proposed changes to the Terms of Reference:
 - That the Mayor will Chair the Grants Determination Sub - Committee
 - To amend Point 3 to clarify the delegation of functions arrangements in line with point 1

7.2 Offer of Historic Buildings Grant to the How Memorial Gateway

Anna Zucchelli (Heritage at Risk Projects Officer, Place) presented the report. The report sought permission to offer a Historic Buildings Grant of up to £17,000 to Bow Church from the programme.

This was for the repair of How Memorial Gateway to match fund a grant of £10,000 from the Heritage of London Trust. The external works met the grants criteria.

The Gateway was on Historic England's Heritage at Risk register. The gateway forms the entrance to St. Leonard's Priory open space. The land had been neglected for many years, but was now being cared for. There were also plans to increase visitor numbers to the site. The grant will enable the repair and future sustainability of the gateway, as well as its removal from the register.

The Committee noted the formal offer was conditional on the receipt of quotes from three contractors. In addition the payment would only be released once the work has been completed and inspected. If approved by the Sub-committee a letter of comfort would be sent to the applicant advising of the Council's intention to issue the grant.

Whilst agreeing with the proposal in principle, it was agreed that a decision on this application be **deferred** pending receipt of the three satisfactory quotes. The application would then be brought back to the Sub – Committee for a decision.

7.3 A Notice in accordance with Section 24 (b) (1) of Part B of the Constitution and COVID-19 Funding to King George's Fields Trust

Catherine Boyd, (Interim Head of Arts, Parks and Events Arts) presented the report. The report asked the Sub – Committee to note a decision taken by the Chief Executive (before the May 2022 election), in compliance with the Constitution.

The particular decision was to fund the Trust and to maintain their solvency due to lost commercial income and increased costs caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the decision taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution

7.4 Local Community Fund (LCF) Performance Report - October 2021 - March 2022

Afazul Hoque presented the update report, including an overview of the LCF, and the Sub – Committee's decision to extend the programme.

The performance report covers the period October 2021 to March 2022. It reports on the five themes of the LCF and the Infrastructure & Capacity Building funding. The Project Summary (Appendix 2) gives an update by each project.

It was noted that:

- The Voluntary and Community Sector (VSC) organisations had worked hard to support residents during the pandemic – and in many cases they had to adapt their approach to delivering projects and had demonstrated a lot of resilience.
- The LCF has a number of themes. Of the 50 projects, 47 have been classified as green. Three had been classified red. Two of these related to tenancy issues. It was proposed that payment to these organisations be suspended until these issues had been solved. Progress has been made with addressing these issues. A further project been classified as red as the project had been suspended- the St Hilda's East Community Centre's Surjamuki Disabled Youth Project.
- There had been an increase in demand for support from LCF providers with the increase in the costs of living and impact of Covid 19. The projects themselves had encountered a number of challenges. The Council were working with organisations to continue to make sure they deliver good services
- The report also provided an update on the Infrastructure and Capacity Building programme, and the nature of this work to support VSC projects. It also provided details of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) trustee training scheme including the proposed outcomes.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.7 and Appendix 2 for October 2021 – March 2022
2. Note the suspension of LCF project payment to Age UK East London's Caxton Hall and Friend at Home projects due to premises issues as set out in paragraph 3.2 (e) and (f)
2. Note the permanent suspension of St Hilda's East Community Centre's Surjamuki Disabled Youth Project as set out in paragraph 3.2 (e) and (g)
4. Note the updates on the funded organisations in Council premises and the Infrastructure & Capacity Building funding as set out in 3.8 to 3.9.
5. Note the programme for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) trustee training and matching with local VCS organisations, that is being delivered via the Infrastructure and Capacity Building programme, as set out in 3.9 (d).

7.5 Report of VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority

Afazul Hoque presented the report. This report provides an update on funding awarded to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the update on funding awarded to Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting

8. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

None

The meeting ended at 6.45 p.m.

Chair,
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee