

<p style="text-align: center;">Grants Determination Sub Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8th November 2023</p>	
<p>Report of: Robin Beattie, Acting Director of Strategy, Improvement and Transformation</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority (October)</p>	

Executive Summary

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.

VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (OCTOBER)

Recommendations:

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee is recommended to:

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

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are several funding programmes to support VCS organisations where decisions are made under delegated authority by officers. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting in line with the Committee's terms of reference.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Council could decide not to provide funding to VCS organisations through its various programmes. However, to do this would be contrary to the agreed policy to support VCS activities in the borough set out in the VCS Strategy 2020-2024.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 Innovation Fund

- (a)** The Council's Innovation Fund terminated on 30th September 2023. It supported VCS organisations to "test and learn" new ways of working, new initiatives and new delivery models that if successful could be scaled up and commissioned more formally. The Council will review the Innovation Fund and seek to integrate lessons learned from the Fund in terms of future work with the VCS.
- (b)** Since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee there have been no additional awards of funding from the Innovation Fund under delegated authority.

3.2 Emergency Funding

- (a)** The Emergency Funding is grant support from the Council to local VCS organisations based in Tower Hamlets who are facing a significant loss of council funding. Organisations can apply for one-off grants up to £10,000. Applicants must clearly demonstrate the need for the funding and the fact that they are facing an unforeseen emergency.
- (b)** Since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee there have been no additional awards of funding from the Emergency Fund under delegated authority.

3.3 Community Benefit Rent Reduction

- (a)** The Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme was set up by the Council to acknowledge the value of the work carried out by VCS organisations leasing its premises through a reduction in the rent payable. The Council charges an appropriate 'market' level rent for its premises and organisations can apply for up to 80% of this as a rent reduction.
- (b)** CBRR is only available for short leases of three to five years. To qualify, organisations need to meet several criteria relating to governance, management and quality standards. Full details of the scheme are set out on in the council's VCS Premises Policy ([VCS-premises-statement-of-policy-and-procedures.docx \(live.com\)](#)).
- (c)** Decisions are made by the CBRR Panel which consists of the following Council officers - Head of Revenues and Benefits (Chair), Head of Corporate Strategy and Policy, the Head of Asset Management - and the Chief Executive of Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service.
- (d)** There have been two CBRR awards made under delegated authority since the Sub-Committee's last meeting. These awards were agreed at CBRR panel meeting on 5th September 2023:

Organisation	Community Benefit Rent Reduction Funding Approved
Bow Foodbank	£20,664 (80% of £25,830)
South Poplar & Limehouse Action for Secure Housing (SPLASH)	£11,300 (100%)
Total	£31,964

- (e) Details of CBRR awards made by officers under delegated authority since the Sub-Committee's last meeting are set out at Appendix A.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All grants awarded need to demonstrate how they meet the needs of our diverse communities and support the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. Equalities data is collected as part of the monitoring process, and this will be reported as part of the annual reporting process.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report notes the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority. The total of grants awarded and agreed rent reductions are contained within approved budgets.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The grants and information noted in this report are in line with approvals previously made and the terms of reference for this sub-committee. There are no other legal implications in this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

Appendix A – Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) Awards agreed at the CBBR Panel Meeting on 5th September 2023

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

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

Or state N/A