

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

**DRAFT INFORMAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION
(CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE**

HELD AT 18:11 ON WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2023

COUNCIL CHAMBER - TOWN HALL, WHITECHAPEL

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee

1. Approves the minutes of the 25 January 2023 meeting as a correct record.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were none.

5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

There were none.

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 MAYOR'S COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the attached report and appendices.

6.2 EMERGENCY GRANT REVIEW

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the Emergency Grant Fund prospectus.
2. Authorise the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation, following consultation with the Mayor, to award Emergency Grant to organisations as and when they arise.

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1. In March 23 Cabinet agreed to review the current Emergency Grant to ensure that VCS organisations who require emergency support can access the funding and continue to deliver services to Tower Hamlets residents.
2. A review of the Emergency Grant Fund has now been concluded. The review included engagement with internal officers, VCS organisations and looking at good practices from other Boroughs.

A new prospectus has been produced based on the findings from the review and approved by the Chief Executive under delegated authority as per March 2023 Cabinet decision.

3. To make the decision-making process more efficient, we are recommending GDSC to authorise the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation, following consultation with the Mayor, to award Emergency Grant to organisations as and when they arise. This will ensure organisations are able to access the funding quickly and are able to deal with the emergency they are facing in a timely manner. GDSC will be provided with updates on the funding on a regular basis.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. Alternative option is not to delegate the authority to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation to approve Emergency Grant fund applications. This is not recommended as it would delay the process for grants award process which will impact on the emergency facing organisations.

6.3 SMALL GRANTS

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the Small Grants prospectus in appendix 1-5.

2. Delegate decision-making authority to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation on grant awards, following consultation with the Mayor.

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1. Cabinet delegated decision-making authority on the Small Grants prospectus to the Chief Executive in March 2023.
2. To ensure the Council can make timely decisions on grant awards to the voluntary and community sector this report is seeking delegated decision making to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. To not approve delegated decision making to the Director of Strategy, Improvement & Transformation. This will mean the Small Grants award decisions will need to be made by the Grants Determination Sub-Committee. This would delay decision making and mean that voluntary and community sector organisations may not be able to access funds when they require them to be able to deliver services and activities.

7. LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORTS

7.1 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2022

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme for October 2021 – September 2022, as set out in 3.3 to 3.8 and Appendices 3 and 4.
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.10.

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1. The Grants Determination Sub Committee (GDSC) Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance reporting to the Committee.
2. Regular performance updates ensure that the LCF themes and individual projects are on track to achieve the targeted outcomes. Any issues that arise can be addressed and appropriate remedial actions agreed. Where necessary, this could include the reduction, withdrawal or reallocation of funds to ensure that the overall Programme is making the most effective use of resources and maximising the potential achievement of agreed aims and objectives

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide Grants Determination Sub-Committee (GDSC) with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements.
2. GDSC could request further information.

7.2 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORT OCTOBER 2022 - DECEMBER 2022

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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 2022 – December 2022
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.9. 3. Note the current Red RAG rating for Real DPO's two LCF projects due to premises issues, as outlined in paragraph 3.2 (b)

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1. The Grants Determination Sub Committee Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance report to the Committee.
2. Regular performance updates ensure that the LCF themes and individual projects are on track to achieve the targeted outcomes. Any issues that arise can be addressed and appropriate remedial actions agreed. Where necessary, this could include the reduction, withdrawal or reallocation of funds to ensure that the overall Programme is making the most effective use of resources and maximising the potential achievement of agreed aims and objectives.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide Grants Determination Sub-Committee (GDSC) with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements.
2. GDSC could request further information or alter the recommendations.

7.3 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND (LCF) PERFORMANCE REPORT - JANUARY 2023 - MARCH 2023

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.7 and Appendix 2 for January 2023 – March 2023
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.9.
3. Note the current Red RAG rating for Real DPO's two LCF projects due to premises issues, as outlined in paragraph 3.2 (b)

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1. The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee (GDSC) Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance report to the Committee.
2. Regular performance updates ensure that the LCF themes and individual projects are on track to achieve the targeted outcomes. Any issues that arise can be addressed and appropriate remedial actions agreed. Where necessary, this could include the reduction, withdrawal or reallocation of funds to ensure that the overall Programme is making the most effective use of resources and maximising the potential achievement of agreed aims and objectives.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide GDSC with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements.
2. GDSC could request further information or alter the recommendations.

7.4 LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND PROGRAMME REPORT APRIL 2023 - JUNE 2023

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund (LCF) programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.7 and Appendix 2 for April 2023 – June 2023
2. Note the performance of the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project as set out in 3.9

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1. The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee's (GDSC) Terms of Reference sets out the need to provide performance report to the Committee.
2. Regular performance updates ensure that the LCF themes and individual projects are on track to achieve the targeted outcomes. Any issues that arise can be addressed and appropriate remedial actions agreed. Where necessary, this could include the reduction, withdrawal or reallocation of funds to ensure that the overall Programme is making the most effective use of resources and maximising the potential achievement of agreed aims and objectives

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

1. Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide GDSC with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements.
2. GDSC could request further information or alter the recommendations.

8. VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY REPORTS

8.1 VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (APRIL 2023)

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1. There are several funding programmes to support VCS organisations in the borough where decisions are made under delegated authority by officers following evaluation of applications by Council officers or the East End Community Foundation on the Council's behalf. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting in line with the Sub-committee's terms of reference.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

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

8.2 VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (JULY 2023)

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

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 Sub Committee's terms of reference.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

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

8.3 VCS FUNDING AWARDED UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY (OCTOBER 2023)

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

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

REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

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.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

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.

9. ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee appoint Cllr Maium Talukdar as a member of the Sub-Committee and Cllr Abdul Wahid as a substitute.

9.1 COMMUNITY GARDENS - PHASE 2 UPDATE & TERMINATION OF GRANT DELIVERY CONTRACT

RECOMMENDED

That the Mayor/Grants Determination Sub Committee:

1. Notes the report.

The meeting ended at 18:27