

London Borough of Islington

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE
23 January 2014

Minutes of the meeting of Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD on 23 January 2014 at 6.00pm.

Present:

Councillors: Andy Hull, Barbara Sidnell and Richard Watts

Observers: Councillors: None

Councillor Sidnell in the chair

118 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Received from Councillor Kaseki

119 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (A2)

None.

120 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A2)

Councillor Hull declared an interest in agenda item B1 – Local Initiatives Fund – as a Trustee of “Back 2 Basics Create”.

121 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2013 (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

122 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND (Item B1)

A revised version of Appendix A was laid round, which set out full details of the bids received, which would be interleaved with the formal record of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

(a) That awards be approved as set out in revised Appendix A to the report of the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities and attached to these minutes, subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) being satisfied that all necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

(b) That the additional proposals received for activities in the lead up to the Christmas period and approved following the November Committee, detailed in Appendix A to the report, be noted.

(c) That the budget amendment for Highbury East Ward, resulting from project underspend and detailed in Appendix A, be noted.

Reason for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

123 **NEW DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS 2014/15 (Item B2)**

RESOLVED:

(a) That Discretionary Rate Relief awards be granted to Blenheim CDP and The Creative and Supportive Trust, from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015.

(b) That the five applications from organisations not meeting the Council's criteria for Discretionary Rate Relief, detailed in paragraph 6.3 of the report of the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities, be rejected.

(c) That 12 month notice letters be issued to all current recipients of Discretionary Rate Relief by 31 March 2014.

Reason for decision

Awarding Discretionary Rate Relief is a cost effective way of supporting local voluntary community groups.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

124 **LONDON COUNCILS' GRANTS COMMITTEE – LEVY 2014/15 (Item B3)**

RESOLVED:

(a) That the London Councils' Grants Committee proposed annual budget of £10m be noted.

(b) That Islington's estimated contribution of £208k (including a one off reimbursement of £20k from London Councils' Grants Committee balances) in 2014/15, a decrease of 8% on Islington's 2013/14 contribution, be approved.

(c) That the equivalent of the £20k London Councils' Grants Committee refund be directed to the Islington Advice Alliance and that this be included in the forthcoming budget report to Council.

Reason for decision

The Council's subscription contributes towards the funding of many London-wide organisations, providing a range of services, which benefit Islington residents.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

The meeting closed at 6.10pm

Chair