



Governance and Human Resources  
Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD

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## AGENDA FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE

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Members of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee are summoned to a meeting which will be held in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **11 July 2016 at 6:30pm\***

\* please note start time

**John Lynch**  
Head of Democratic Services

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Despatched 29 June 2016

### Membership 2016/17

Councillor Richard Watts (Chair)  
Councillor Andy Hull  
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz

### Substitute Members

Councillor Janet Burgess MBE  
Councillor Joe Caluori  
Councillor Asima Shaikh  
Councillor Diarmaid Ward  
Councillor Claudia Webbe

### Observers

Councillor Theresa Debono  
Councillor Mouna Hamitouche MBE  
Councillor Marian Spall

**Quorum: is 2 Councillors**



<b>A. Formal matters</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Apologies for absence	
2. Declaration of substitute members	
3. Declarations of interest	

If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business:

- if it is not yet on the council's register, you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;
  - you may choose to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency.
- In both the above cases, you must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If you have a personal interest in an item of business and you intend to speak or vote on the item you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you may participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

\*(a) Employment, etc - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.

(b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.

(c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.

(d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.

(e) Licences- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.

(f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.

(g) Securities - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to all members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting	1 - 10
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<b>B. Matters for decision</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. Local Initiatives Fund awards	11 - 16
2. Islington Assembly Hall: free community use for 2015-16 - round two	17 - 22
3. Discretionary rate relief awards	23 - 28

**C. Urgent non-exempt matters**

Any non-exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

**D. Exclusion of press and public**

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the remaining items on the agenda, any of them are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and, if so, whether to exclude the press and public during discussion thereof.

**E. Confidential/exempt items for information (if any)**

**F. Urgent Exempt Matters**

Any exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes

The next meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is scheduled for  
19 September 2016

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**96** **VOLUNTARY SECTOR GRANTS PROGRAMME 2016-2020 (Item B1)**

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That the VCS Partnership Grants Programme Awards across the five programme strands, detailed in paragraph 9 and Appendix 3 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be approved.

(b) That £140,000 of funding be retained to respond to identified gaps in the VCS Partnership portfolio in order to support the delivery of the VCS strategy, as detailed in paragraph 9 of the report.

Reasons for decision

The decisions reflected the priorities and services outlined in “Towards a Fairer Islington: Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy 2016 – 2020” and the Advice Review which identified how and where voluntary and community sector organisations could add real value and support the Council in taking forward its ambition to promote a fairer Islington.

Other options considered

None .

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

**97** **LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B2)**

A revised Appendix A was laid round.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That the proposals for funding under the Local Initiatives Fund submitted by Ward councillors and detailed in revised Appendix A (attached to these minutes) of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be approved in principle, subject to the Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Human Resources being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

(b) That the amendments to Ward budgets resulting from project funding being returned, detailed in Appendix A of the report, be also noted.

Reasons for decision

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

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None.

The meeting ended at 5.55 pm

**CHAIR**

## NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2016

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance and Human Resources Comments
Barnsbury / Bunhill / Highbury East / Hillrise / Junction / Mildmay / St Georges / St Marys / Tollington	All councillors of Bunhill, Highbury East, Junction, St Georges and St Marys wards / Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / Micheline Ngongo / Marian Spall / Joe Caluori / Jean Kaseki / Flora Williamson	Awesome Elm CIC	Playday event in Barnard Park organised by a council employee led mutual. Funding to contribute towards resources/ materials, marquees, t-shirts, transport, publicity and power generator.	3 August 2016	Children and young people across Islington, especially those attending adventure playgrounds	150 children per ward (total of 2,400)	2,426.66	7,555	£3,635 from various in kind support, £1,400 further LIF tbc	The amount requested per ward is £280 (£3,920 in total).
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche	North London Prabhati Sangha	Bengali New Year celebration and classes in music and dance at the Hugh Cubitt Centre. Funding for the classes will pay for the venue and the tutor. Funding for the event will contribute towards artists, refreshments, venue hire, publicity and other associated running costs.	May 2016 to May 2017	Open to all	300+ at NY celebration, 20 at music and dance classes	3,135	6,943	£2,060 through group members, further match funding tbc	The amount requested is £4,883 for a larger project including classes in Bengali language and yoga.
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher / Robert Khan / Claudia Webbe	London Symphony Orchestra	Event to connect LSO St Lukes with local residents by celebrating the history and memory of St Luke's Church (which the building used to be) and to promote its current use as a music education centre. Funding to support an open afternoon at LSO St. Luke's (tea and cakes, choir conductor, publicity, stewards, catering staff and musicians).	Monday 26 September 2016	Users of St Luke's Community Centre and local residents	200	1,264.20	4,284.20	£3,020 through a mixture of in kind support	

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Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance and Human Resources Comments
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Una O'Halloran / Rupert Perry	Islington Play Association	Thirty six volunteer-led healthy cooking sessions at Crumbles Castle and Lumpy Hill Adventure Playgrounds. Local volunteers will achieve qualifications, develop transferable skills and gain experience. Funding to pay for ingredients.	April to October 2016	Mainly children and families in Caledonian	399 children	820	6,996	£4,946 Health and Social Care Volunteering Fund, £820 Tollington and Bunhill LIF, £410 Holloway LIF tbc	£820 LIF awarded to this project for activity in Tollington and Bunhill wards.
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Una O'Halloran / Rupert Perry	Barnsbury Parish	Bemerton Soul summer playscheme for a week in Bingfield Park (run by 5 local churches and London City Mission) with a fun day and barbecue at the end. Funding to pay for football coaches, volunteer lunches, craft equipment and tea and coffee for a parents' cafe.	25 to 31 July 2016	Children and young people in Barnsbury and Caledonian wards	65 children, 30 teenagers, 175 attending the fun day	850	4,000	£2,000 Barnsbury Parish, £150 Waitrose, £850 Barnsbury LIF, £150 tbc through fundraising or covered by parish	£850 Barnsbury LIF awarded to this project in March 2016.
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh	Jannaty Women's Social Society	Annual graduation ceremony at the Andover Community Centre for Arabic language students and women doing sewing and cooking classes. Funding to pay for refreshments, certificates, gifts, venue hire, volunteer costs and catering accessories.	29 May 2016	Women, young people and children living in Islington	130	500	650	£150 from members for the rent	
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Mick O'Sullivan	Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Social activities for older people - two local trips, two new health and well being events and a tea dance. Funding to pay for staff time, entrance fees, refreshments and volunteer expenses.	24 June to 30 September 2016	Older people who are at risk of social isolation	50	600	790	£190 Holloway Neighbourhood Group	



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Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Mick O'Sullivan	Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Bouncy castle, food and soft drinks for the annual Mayton Street Festival which is being organised by local residents.	16 July 2016	All local residents	350	500	700	£95 Holloway Neighbourhood Group, £105 income from donations and stalls tbc	
Page 5 Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Mick O'Sullivan	Tollington Parish	Events on the Andover and Six Acres estates, including a health and well being day, a fun day and a children's sports day organised in conjunction with the council and local TRAs. Funding to contribute towards the cost of hiring technical, sound and other equipment.	3 to 5 June 2016	Local residents, especially young people on the estates	1,800 households on the estates	500	8,000	£5,000 LBI Housing, £2,000 Tollington Parish, £200 New Life tbc	
Highbury East	Aysegul Erdogan / Osh Gantly / Caroline Russell	Islington Mind	Day trip to Southend on Sea for members of the LGBT community, especially those dealing with mental health issues and LGBT asylum seekers and refugees. Funding to pay for coach hire, lunch, activities, refreshments and pier admission.	July or August 2016 - exact date to be confirmed when funding is agreed	Members of the LGBT community who are often isolated	25	1,050	1,050	Not applicable	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Richard Greening / Andy Hull	Stephens Ink Community Association	Five week arts and crafts course to enable students to make seasonal/Christmas items such as wreaths, table arrangements and other decorations which they could also sell. Funding to pay for tutor, materials and accessories.	16 November to 14 December 2016	Local residents	10 to 12	1,085	1,085	Not applicable	

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Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance and Human Resources Comments
Hillrise	Micheline Ngongo / David Poyser /Marian Spall	Archway Town Centre Group	A one day Archway town centre festival organised by Hargrave Hall Community Centre and the Archway Town Centre Group. Funding to contribute towards stalls hire, publicity, facepainters, entertainment, music and other associated costs.	18 June 2016	Local residents, town centre visitors and local businesses	500	500	2,846	£500 Junction LIF, £1,000 Hargrave Hall tbc, £900 business sponsorship tbc	£1,000 LIF allocated to this project in April 2016 by Junction. The £1,000 will now be shared by Hillrise and Junction.
Hillrise	Micheline Ngongo / David Poyser /Marian Spall	Art Therapy 4 All	Art therapy for residents of Cheverton Lodge Care Home. Funding to contribute towards 12 weeks of group sessions and 28 individual sessions for residents who are unable to leave their beds.	July to December 2016	Older people and those with long standing physical disabilities	16	930	1,830	£300 Cheverton Lodge Care Home, £600 LBI Community Chest	
Hillrise	Micheline Ngongo / David Poyser /Marian Spall	Octopus Community Network	Funding for the servicing cost of a Gro-Mobile (milk float turned into a potting shed and mobile nature classroom) to empower local residents to transform unloved local spaces into vegetable patches and wildlife havens.	June 2016 to June 2017	Local residents focussing on key estates such as Elthorne, Miranda, New Orleans, Hillside and Ashmount	1,000+ over three years	300	15,781	£11,810 mainly through Spacehive crowd funding (includes £1,500 LIF, £2,500 from Growing a Greener Britain)	£1,500 LIF awarded to this project by Highbury East, St Peter's and Tollington wards in March and April 2016.
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls	Pemberton Gardens Street Party	Pemberton Gardens 'Big Lunch' Street Party 2016. Funding to pay for DJ, bouncy castle, catering accessories and street entertainment.	Saturday 18 June 2016	Residents from Pemberton Gardens and St John's Church, Upper Holloway	200+	500	800	£300 St John's Church, Upper Holloway tbc	

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Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance and Human Resources Comments
Mildmay / St Mary's / St Peter's	Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay / Olly Parker / Gary Poole / Nurullah Turan / Martin Klute	International Elderly Luncheon Club	Seaside outing to Southend for older people. Funding to pay for coach hire.	Tuesday 21 June 2016	Older people	20	350	350	Not applicable	
St Georges	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	Tufnell Park Primary School Home School Association	Funding to contribute towards the hire of a rodeo bull activity and inflatables at the school summer fair.	Saturday 9 July 2016	Children, staff and their families as well as wider local community	800	400	3,000	Remainder funded through raffle profit	
St Georges	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	Hilldrop Crescent TRA	Improvement of Tansley Close community garden. Funding to pay for a professional landscape gardener, plants, rocks for herb garden, hanging baskets, bird boxes, watering hose and the fixing a donated bench.	June to September 2016	Local residents	100	1,000	1,000	Not applicable	
St Georges	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	Crayford Road Gardeners	Fifth annual Crayford Road Street Party which this year includes a games - sack races, egg and spoon races, etc. Funding to pay for food and soft drinks, a band, decorations and entertainment.	10 July 2016	Local residents	150	500	1,000	£500 residents' contributions	
St Marys	Angela Picknell / Gary Poole / Nurullah Turan	Mary's (previously St Mary Islington Community Partnership)	Summer activities programme. Funding to contribute towards go karting, paint balling, roller disco evening, BBQ, photography project, staff costs, building hire and travel expenses.	18 July to 16 September 2016	Young people aged 11 to 19 (up to 24 with learning difficulties / disabilities)	80+	1,500	3,897.34	£157.34 Marys Members Subs, £740 in kind through Mary's building Hire, further match funding tbc	The amount requested is £3,000.

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Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance and Human Resources Comments
St Marys	Angela Picknell	Tintype Gallery	Christmas event celebrating Essex Road and its neighbourhoods by screening films made for the Essex Road project over the past two years. Funding will pay for tea and refreshments, a projectionist and printing of publicity.	15 December 2016	Local community groups and organisations	100	300	600	£300 from Arts Council England or Tintype	
Tollington	Jean Kaseki	Cascadura Team Community Supporters	Fashion show and entertainment for older people and organisations to encourage older people to dress in appropriate clothing, thereby inspiring confidence and improving wellbeing. Funding to pay for hire of the Islington Assembly Hall.	14 September 2016	Mainly older people	170	800	1,390	£300 tbc from PFI Housing, remainder from LIF, Hanley Crouch Comm Assoc or Age UK Islington tbc	

## PROJECT CHANGES TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2016

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance and Human Resources Comments
Canonbury	Alexander Diner/ Clare Jeapes / Nicholas Wayne	Urban Hope	Youth worker costs associated with the running of a weekly running club and entry fees and travel to the Lee Valley 10km race.	7 June to 4 September 2016	Young people aged 14 to 18	10	671.34	760	£100 Jones Day law firm	Grant awarded in January 2016 for half term training for which there was an underspend of £671.34.

**Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining**

<b>Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2016-17:</b>	<b>£240,000</b>
Total allocations to be made from previous years' budgets:	£16,912
Amount allocated by VCS Committee to date:	£32,080
Balance remaining:	£224,832
<b>New proposals for June VCS Committee:</b>	<b>£19,811</b>
<b>Total amount remaining to allocate in 2016-17:</b>	<b>£205,021</b>

<b>2016-17 Balance remaining by ward:</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Balance:</b>
Barnsbury	£9,323
Bunhill	£12,147
Caledonian	£14,830
Canonbury	£11,659
Clerkenwell	£14,500
Finsbury Park	£12,971
Highbury East	£14,775
Highbury West	£11,685
Hillrise	£5,833
Holloway	£15,025
Junction	£14,835
Mildmay	£12,399
St George's	£13,820
St Mary's	£10,480
St Peter's	£16,819
Tollington	£13,920

**£205,021****Notes:**

Includes £1,279 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £500 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,500 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £159 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,000 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £571 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,105 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £500 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £25 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £2,615 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £10 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,000 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £847 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £5,800 from previous LIF allocations

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## Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	11 <sup>th</sup> July 2016		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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## SUBJECT: LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Local Initiatives Fund is a flexible devolved budget for councillors to use to address issues and priorities in their wards. It is an important element of the council's community provision and helps to meet the needs of local residents. In 2016/17 each ward has an allocation of £15,000 to spend on local schemes. Councillors consider project ideas for their ward and make recommendations to the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. This report asks the committee to approve the proposals submitted by ward councillors for this financial year.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider the new proposals and changes to previous proposals submitted by ward councillors as set out in Appendix A and to agree these proposals in principle subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 2.2 As in previous years, during July and August, it is expected that applications will be received from community groups to fund summer events and activities. It is therefore recommended that authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) to agree the allocation of up to £1,000 each for such proposals received prior to the next meeting of the VCS Committee in September. Agreement would be subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) being satisfied the necessary paperwork has been approved, that the necessary checks have been made and other issues resolved. The Executive Member for Community Development would be informed of all events agreed under delegated authority.
- 2.3 To note the amendments to ward budgets resulting from project funding being returned, as listed in the budget summary on the last page of Appendix A.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2011 the council agreed to strengthen the role of ward councillors by building on existing 'neighbourhood arrangements' for some wards and establishing a mechanism for a more focussed ward based approach throughout the borough. From 1 April 2011 new ward partnership arrangements were introduced in place of the previous area committees.

- 3.2 Simultaneously a report relating to the Islington Community Fund was agreed by Executive. This included a proposal to create a Local Initiatives Fund with each ward having an allocation of £20,000 per year to spend on local projects.
- 3.3 In February 2015, the Executive agreed that the Local Initiatives Fund budget be reduced to £15,000 per ward (£240,000 total).
- 3.4 The Local Initiatives Fund enables councillors to respond directly to priorities in their ward that lie outside of current mainstream funding programmes and might not otherwise receive funding. It helps them to address the needs of local residents and suggest improvements to local services/facilities or new schemes that will enhance the area.
- 3.5 At Executive in March 2011 it was agreed that a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Committee of the Executive should be set up to oversee the council's engagement with the voluntary and community sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector.
- 3.6 The VCS Committee's terms of reference include 'To be responsible for the allocation of the Islington Community Fund including...allocating the Local Initiatives Fund having regard to the recommendations of the relevant ward members/relevant ward partnership or neighbourhood group and on the basis that the funding will be allocated equally among the 16 wards making up the council's area'.
- 3.7 The committee agreed that each ward councillor should be given a notional allocation of the Local Initiatives Fund (i.e. divided equally between the councillors elected for each ward). In 2016/17 £15,000 is available to each ward; therefore the notional allocation for each councillor is £5,000. In September 2014 the VCS Committee agreed to introduce a minimum award of £250 per project.
- 3.8 The Democratic Services team in the Chief Executive's department is responsible for managing the Local Initiatives Fund in liaison with ward councillors and members of the VCS Committee. The team ensures that funds are used appropriately and for the purpose for which they are allocated.
- 3.9 The third tranche of proposals submitted by ward councillors for this financial year is set out in Appendix A. It is recommended that these proposals are agreed in principle subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 3.10 Occasionally projects do not proceed as planned and funding is returned to ward budgets. These amendments are listed in the budget summary on the last page of Appendix A.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial implications:**

The proposals referred to in this report will be met from budget allocations for the Local Initiatives Fund.

### **4.2 Legal Implications:**

The general power of competence pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which came into force on 6 April 2012 provides the council with very broad powers 'to do anything that individuals generally may do'. This covers the power to give grants to voluntary and community sector organisations as proposed in this report and includes anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole or part of its area or all or any of the persons resident or present in that area. The provision of resources through the Local Initiatives Fund is likely to promote the social and economic well being of Islington's residents.

The council is under a fiduciary duty to ensure that its resources are used appropriately. Where the money is allocated to outside bodies, the requirements of the procurement rules may apply. In any event it will be important to maintain current practice of ensuring that the money will be used for the purposes for which it is allocated and that individual members are made aware of the responsibility they bear in making recommendations in relation to specific groups.



#### 4.3 **Environmental Implications:**

When considering proposals the VCS Committee will take relevant environmental implications into account.

#### 4.4 **Resident Impact Assessment:**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life.

The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding and when considering proposals the VCS Committee will take relevant equalities implications into account. The Local Initiatives Fund provides resources for local projects which directly meet the needs of local residents, many of whom are from groups with protected characteristics. It enables some of Islington's poorest communities to access community-based services and activities and allows provision to be developed locally which can reach groups of residents that may not otherwise be supported.

### 5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

The Local Initiatives Fund is an effective way of addressing local priorities and provides a mechanism for ward councillors to support small projects which might otherwise not be funded. Proposals submitted for approval represent a wide range of activity and will deliver significant benefit to local communities.

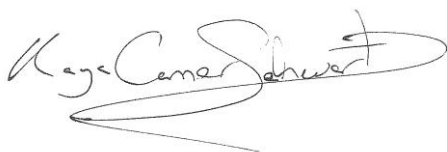
#### **Appendices**

Appendix A – Local Initiatives Fund Proposals

**Background papers:** none

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



27 June 2016

Executive Member for Community Development

**Received by:**



27 June 2016

Head of Democratic Services

Report Author: John Lynch, Head of Democratic Services  
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Email: john.lynch@islington.gov.uk

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## NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JULY 2016

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance and Human Resources Comments
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls	Girdlestone Third Age Group	Contribution to the provision of outings and lunches for older people to reduce isolation. The group is supported by the Junction Safer Neighbourhood Team.	July 2016 to July 2017	Older local residents	37	3,000	3,000	Not applicable	
Tollington	Jean Kaseki	Cascadura Team Community Supporters	Fashion show and entertainment for older people and organisations to encourage older people to dress in appropriate clothing, thereby inspiring confidence and improving wellbeing. Funding to pay for extra Islington Assembly Hall costs (sound system, AV engineer, AV equipment, tablecloths, tea and coffee).	14 September 2016	Mainly older people	170	439	2,000	£800 LIF, £300 tbc from PFI Housing, remainder from Hanley Crouch and Age UK tbc	£800 LIF from Tollington awarded to this project in June 2016.

**Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining**

<b>Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2016-17:</b>	<b>£240,000</b>
Total allocations to be made from previous years' budgets:	£16,912
Amount allocated by VCS Committee to date:	£51,891
Balance remaining:	£205,021
<b>New proposals for July VCS Committee:</b>	<b>£3,439</b>
<b>Total amount remaining to allocate in 2016-17:</b>	<b>£201,582</b>

<b>2016-17 Balance remaining by ward:</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Balance:</b>
Barnsbury	£9,323
Bunhill	£12,147
Caledonian	£14,830
Canonbury	£11,659
Clerkenwell	£14,500
Finsbury Park	£12,971
Highbury East	£14,775
Highbury West	£11,685
Hillrise	£5,833
Holloway	£15,025
Junction	£11,835
Mildmay	£12,399
St George's	£13,820
St Mary's	£10,480
St Peter's	£16,819
Tollington	£13,481

**£201,582****Notes:**

Includes £1,279 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £500 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,500 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £159 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,000 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £571 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,105 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £500 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £25 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £2,615 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £10 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £1,000 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £847 from previous LIF allocations

Includes £5,800 from previous LIF allocations



## Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	11 July 2016		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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## SUBJECT: Islington Assembly Hall: Free Community Use Spring 2017

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Each year, local community and arts organisations have the opportunity to apply for free hires of Islington Assembly Hall. Applicants are assessed against published criteria and, if successful, have to meet any additional costs (e.g. equipment or technical), which are not covered by the scheme. From 2016, the scheme has amended criteria and application process.

There are two application rounds each year, one for the period July-September and one for January-March, amounting to a total of eight free hires. In the previous round July-September 2016, one of the allocated free hires has not been taken up by any applicant. Assembly Hall has agreed to carry over an additional free hire to this round January-March 2017, making a total of five slots this round.

### 2. Recommendation

To allocate one free hire for Spring 2017 to each of the following:

- Islington Children's and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum
- Islington Council Choir
- Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
- Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
- Little Angel Theatre

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The second round of the scheme was launched in May 2016 and was promoted through LBI Communications on the council external website, the izzi rotator, and the IC Bulletin, as well as through Creative Islington's newsletter, to wider sector via LBI departments (Youth Services, Housing, VCS Team, BME Forum, School Improvement Service, Libraries) direct mailings to previous applicants and arts sector organisation.

The scheme received 6 applications from eligible organisations supporting a wide range of events, (see Appendix 1).

3.2 Applications have been assessed against the published criteria which requires applicants to demonstrate a commitment to provide events and activities that:

a) Have a strategic value, and in particular a focus on at least one of the following four areas:

- Community cohesion
- Children and young people
- Diversity
- Creative ways of engaging local residents

b) Have a borough-wide impact.

c) Demonstrate a commitment to good practice (events that are viable, of high quality, well managed and evaluated).

d) Promote the Islington Assembly Hall as a focus for high quality events, making best use of the high quality facilities available in the venue.

The scheme does **not** support:

- Groups that are not based in the borough.
- Events or activities from commercial organisations
- More than one use of the Assembly Hall per applicant in any 12 months.

3.3 Wherever possible, unsuccessful applicants will be supported, to secure alternative premises for their work.

#### 4. Free Hire

4.1 The following organisations and events most closely meet the criteria and are recommended for free use of the Assembly Hall.

<b>Islington Childrens and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum</b>	<b>Childhood in Islington</b> - a Ted Talk style conference empowering local VCS organisations to deliver innovations in services for children in Islington
<b>Islington Council Choir</b>	<b>Islington Choirs Concert</b> - Concert involving 15+ community/amateur/school choirs from across Islington
<b>Manor Gardens Welfare Trust</b>	<b>Winter Wellbeing Festival</b> - indoor festival celebrating and promoting Wellbeing targeting those who are isolated.
<b>Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants</b>	<b>Music, poetry and art from the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants</b> - artistic work and performance created by refugees and asylum seekers
<b>Little Angel Theatre</b>	<b>Community Fundraising Event</b> - high profile fundraising event to highlight and support Little Angel's local community activities.

4.2 Officers will prepare a press release announcing the free hires. Organisations will have to submit information about their events to the Council's events diary.

#### 5. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications other than the loss of income as a result of waiving the fees for the eight hires which has been built into the business plan for the Assembly Hall.

## 6. Legal Implications

The Council can support voluntary and community sector organisations under the wellbeing power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. This gives the Council the power to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the whole or part of its area or all or any of the persons resident or present in that area.

## 7. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications.

## 8. Resident Impact Assessment:

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The proposed events serve a wide range of communities and support the Council and Arts Services priorities, targeting young people, refugees, elderly people with activities that support health and well being.

## 9. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

The scheme provides an opportunity for the council to support local organisations through free use of the Assembly Hall. Applications have been assessed through a clear and transparent process.

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



Date 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

**Received by:**

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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APPENDIX 1: Islington Assembly Hall Free Community Use - Applicants Spring 2017

APPLICATION DETAILS			SCORE	RECOMMENDATIONS	
Organisation	Expected Audience	Event Description	Total Score	Recommended	Comments
<b>Islington Childrens and Young People's Voluntary Sector Forum</b>	150	<b>Childhood in Islington</b> A Ted Talk style conference empowering local Voluntary Sector organisations to deliver innovations in services for children in Islington to prevent problems developing and enable children to achieve their potential.	<b>56</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Brings together a wide ranging group of voluntary sector organizations with a strategic focus on delivery for children and young people. Talks will include focus on working with children with a disability. It is likely that the organizations will represent a diversity of ethnicities and have a borough wide impact. The TED Talk format is likely to engage residents more creatively with the content. Applicant supplies a timetable and has organizational support for the event.
<b>Islington Council Choir</b>	300-500	<b>Islington Choirs Concert</b> A concert involving 15+ community/amateur choirs from across Islington. Fundraising project for a local charity.	<b>55</b>	<b>Yes</b>	Event is unusual, because a large number of Islington choirs across several age groups have been brought together. Wide variety of choirs, including men's choirs, elders choirs, gospel choirs and potentially school choirs. It is unclear how diverse the demographic will be. Links with choirs are borough wide. Applicant has relevant expertise and a strong reputation for event management. Event is likely to use the full technical facilities of the hall.
<b>Manor Gardens Welfare Trust</b>	1,000	<b>Winter Wellbeing Festival</b> Indoor festival celebrating and promoting Wellbeing, with stalls, entertainment, and taster sessions in dancing, singing, cooking, drama and crafts targeting those who are isolated.	<b>54</b>	<b>Yes</b>	The applicant provides services for individuals from a wide range of communities in Islington, including work with early years children and isolated older people. Applicant's extensive work with migrant communities and links with voluntary and statutory services suggest that there will be borough wide impact. Creative activities include a variety of artistic, cooking and craft sessions. Event schedule and details suggest that planning will be well thought through with good staff support.

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants	250	<p><b>Music, poetry and art from the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants</b></p> <p>An evening of song, poetry and art created by refugees and asylum seekers, including art from Amnesty International exhibition curated by Sita Brahmachari and Jane Ray. Opening presentation by Patron Juliet Stevenson.</p>	44	Yes	Event will bring together refugees, migrants and native resident communities, helping to build confidence in migrants and reduce the feeling of isolation. Focus on children and young people is not clear. Diversity of audience is not explicitly stated, but is likely to involve diverse ethnicities due to focus on migrants. Creative activities include music, poetry and art. Borough wide impact is not explicit, but the reach of the organisation is across the borough. Applicant will provide staffing support for the event.
Little Angel Theatre	150	<p><b>Community Fundraising Event</b></p> <p>High profile fundraising event to highlight and support Little Angel's local community activities.</p>	33	Yes	Event will have limited community cohesion or diversity outcomes and is not likely to have borough wide impact. However, the aim of the event is to raise funds for community focused activities in Little Angel Creative Learning Centre which is situated in Sebbon Street Community Centre. Little Angel are a key LBI strategic partner, a leading provider of arts for families and children. Event management is likely to be extremely high quality and they are likely to use the facilities effectively. This use of Assembly Hall as a charity fundraising venue is likely to raise its profile and attract similar high profile events.
Love Eco	Not listed	<p><b>LovEco Pop Up Event</b>Event promoting sustainable fashion and highlighting environmental issues, including fashion show, clothing sales, film screening and opportunity for local artists.</p>	26	No	Applicant is a private company specialising in eco-friendly fashion. Event is a promotional event for the company's brands and will have limited community cohesion outcomes or borough wide impact. There is no evidence of marketing strategies to attract an audience that will reflect the cultural diversity of the borough. Target audience is 18-30, so there may be some impact for young people aged 18-25. Creative activities are limited to a fashion show and DJs. It is not clear how volunteer staff will be managed at the event. Officer will support the applicant with advice about other potentially appropriate venues, such as Platform or LIFT.



## Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	11 July 2016		All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	

## SUBJECT: New Discretionary Rate Relief Awards

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1 In January 2015, VCS Committee agreed all of the Council's current discretionary rate relief (DRR) awards to local organisations for five years (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020).
- 1.2 This report asks VCS Committee to consider new applications for DRR received since June 2016.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree DRR to Light Eye, The Park Theatre, Fourth Monkey Education Limited to 31 March 2020
- 2.2 To reject the application from British Heart Foundation, due to the premises operating as a charity shop making it ineligible for Discretionary Rate Relief.
- 2.3 To reject the application from the British Red Cross. This is an application from a national charity for its area office and the organisation does not clearly outline the direct benefit to Islington residents.
- 2.4 To reject the application from Clay Time Pottery, due to the organisation charging for access to its services.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 Registered charities and not for profit organisations benefit from relief from non-domestic rates in two ways:

## a) Mandatory Relief

This is given automatically if they are registered charities. They receive 80% rate relief which is entirely funded by central government, at no cost to the council.

## b) Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR)

Local authorities also have discretionary powers to grant DRR to non-profit making organisations to either:

a) top-up the remaining 20% of the rates bill of a registered charity getting mandatory rate relief

or

b) pay up to 100% of the rates of a non-profit making organisation that isn't a registered charity and therefore not eligible for 80% mandatory rate relief.

## 4. Criteria

4.1 The criteria for DRR (Appendix A) was agreed by VCS Committee in 2011. This prioritises local voluntary organisations providing services to residents, but excludes the head offices of national and international charities based in the borough. The cost of a DRR award balanced against the amount of local benefit is also considered.

## 5. Funding Discretionary Rate Relief

5.1 Discretionary rate relief is a cost effective way for the Council to support local voluntary organisations as it only bears 30% of the cost of an award. The remaining 70% is funded by central government (50%) and the GLA (20%).

5.2 Current DRR awards total £989,523.80 and the cost to the Council is £296,857.15. However, the final annual cost will be higher as some organisations awarded DRR are still waiting for a rateable value for their premises to be set and have not had to pay any rates so far.

5.3 The Council's budget to fund DRR is £320,000. The cost of all current awards and the new applications recommended for approval in this report can be met from this budget.

## 6. New Applications

6.1 Three organisations have applied for DRR since April 2016. The list below outlines the organisation that meets the criteria.

### 6.2 Recommended for DRR

Organisation	Address	Activities	DRR (cost to Council)
Light Eye Mind Limited	176 Blackstock Road, London. N5 1HA	Community Artists-run space, offering opportunities for local artists to meet and use as a gallery/ exhibitions. Organisation is run by local young artists and is a key stakeholder in Finsbury Park Creative hub.	£316.82

The Park Theatre	11 Clifton Terrace, London. N4 3JP	Offering a range of theatre based performance art and outreach programmes to actively engage with communities. Organisation also offers targeted support work with different sections of the communities with 'protected characteristics'.	£1140.62
Fourth Monkey Education Limited	97-101 Seven Sisters Road, London, N7 7QP	Theatre and educational arts charity delivering a variety of creative services for the local and arts community.	£3544.11
		<b>TOTAL RECOMMENDED</b>	<b>£5001.55</b>

6.3 The applications received from the following do not meet the criteria and are not recommended for a DRR award:

### Not Recommended for DRR

Organisation	Address	Activities	DRR (cost to Council)
British Heart Foundation	83 Seven Sisters Road, London N7 6BU	Charity shop selling donated electrical equipment and furniture. Receives 80% mandatory rate relief.	£2,856.08
British Red Cross	Aztec Row, 1 Berners Road, London N1 0PW	Property is used as an area office for the organisation run services. Receives 80% mandatory rate relief.	£1,118.25
Clay Time Pottery	164 Blackstock Road, London. N5 1HA	Offering chargeable pottery classes and workshops.	£953.93

## 7. Current DRR Budget

7.1 The additional cost to the Council for DRR awards to the organisations set out in 6.2 would be £5,001.55 which can be met from within the Council's £320,000 capped DRR budget.

## 8. Implications

### 8.1 Financial Implications:

The current annual budget for Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) is £320k and the three additional reliefs to be granted will be funded through this existing budget.

8.1.1 The current budget expenditure is £296,857.15. This is because the NNDR multiplier has increased from 49.3% to 49.9% (approximately +1%). This will increase by approximately 1% every year.

8.1.2 Following approval of this round of applications the total allocation of DRR will be £301,858.70. This will leave £18,141.30 remaining in the budget. At the current rate of allocations and the yearly increase of 1% as outlined in the NNDR multiplier, it is anticipated that the entire budget will fully committed by July 2017 following two more rounds of applications. It is recommended that VCS Committee considers whether the Council should increase DRR budget or cap the existing budget and continue to support the existing 227 organisations.

## 8.2 **Legal Implications:**

Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 confers discretion on local billing authorities to grant discretionary rate relief from all or part of the amount of non-domestic rates payable to registered charities and certain non-profit making organisations. Authorities have discretion to award up to 100% relief to non-profit making bodies and can grant up to 20% relief by way of top-up to charities bodies in receipt of the 80% mandatory relief.

The Council may grant rate relief for a fixed period of time. The Non-Domestic Rating (Discretionary Relief) Regulations 1989 require the council to give notice to the ratepayer stating the start date and end date of the period in respect of which relief is given.

In deciding whether or not to grant rate relief to applicants, the council should consider carefully each application on its merits taking into account its Criteria for Awarding Discretionary Rate Relief as set out in Appendix A.

Following the introduction of the Business Rate Retention Scheme, the cost of funding discretionary relief granted on or after 1 April 2013 is met equally by local authorities and Central Government. The Council bears 30% of the cost of relief and the Greater London Authority 20% as it is entitled to receive 20% of the business rates collected by the council

The Council is required to give 12 months' notice of the withdrawal of relief.

## 8.3 **Environmental Implications:**

None.

## 8.4 **Resident Impact Assessment:**

The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster

good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

Organisations recommended for DRR are particularly focussed on serving poor and vulnerable residents and those with protected characteristics. Many groups are based on council housing estates or located in deprived neighbourhoods. The criteria for DRR were drawn up specifically to support organisations serving the most disadvantaged sections of our community.

## 9. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

9.1 All DRR applications received have been assessed against the criteria already agreed by VCS Committee. The organisation recommended for DRR awards fit the criteria and, if approved, DRR awards will be to 31 March 2020.

**Appendices**

Appendix A – DRR Criteria

**Background papers:** none

Final report clearance:

**Signed by:**



Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

27 June 2016

Executive Member for Community Development

**Received by:**

Date

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