

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 30 January 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30 January 2024 at 6.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Comer-Schwartz, O'Halloran and Bell-Bradford

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

41 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Khondoker.

42 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

There were no declarations of substitute members.

43 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

44 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

45 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAMME 2024-2028 (UPDATE) (Item B1)

Executive Member Homes and Neighbourhood informed the meeting that the report was considered at the December meeting. The following points were highlighted:

- That out of the 51 organisations which were awarded grants, 4 organisations exceeded the total contract value of £500,000 which is deemed to be a key decision under the council's governance arrangements.
- At the end of December 2023 all 51 organisations were sent confirmation notifications, and subject to them returning their annual work plans by 16 February 2024, their Service Level Agreements are marked to be completed by 31 March 2024, with a start date for the contracts to commence on 1 April 2024.
- Executive Member reiterated that to ensure that the commitments made within any established grant agreements and applications are developed and actioned, 6 monthly monitoring and partnership meetings will be held throughout the duration of the grant programme.

RESOLVED:

- The update of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2024-28 be noted.

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- The funding allocation of £2,711,500 per full financial year over the programme for four years , totally £10,846,000 be noted.

Reasons for Decision: As specified in the report

Other Options Considered - As detailed in the report

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensation granted - none

- 46 **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS 2023-2026 (Item B2)**
Executive Member Homes and Neighbourhood highlighted a number of issues in the report:

- The report sets out the background of the Council's DRR policy for 2023-26 and outlines the recommendations for DRR applications received in Round 2 of the programme which ran from 1 June 2023- 31 December 2023.
- DRR is applied to 6 organisations occupying 6 hereditaments shown in Appendix A.
- DRR is applied to 1 organisation occupying 1 hereditament shown in Appendix B subject to clarification on activities carried out for community benefit.

RESOLVED:

- That the DRR awards to the organisations listed in Appendix A for 3 years be noted.
- That the DRR award to the organisation listed in Appendix B be noted.

Reasons for Decision: As specified in the report

Other Options Considered - As detailed in the report

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensation granted - none

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm

CHAIR