

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 7 December 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 7 December 2023 at 6.30 pm.

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

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

36 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

37 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)

There were no declarations of substitute members.

38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)

There were no declarations of interest.

39 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

40 VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAMME 2024-2028 (Item 5)

The Executive Member, Homes and Neighbourhood reminded meeting that Council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a key component of the Council's efforts to support the development of resilient communities and a strong, independent voluntary and community sector and that it provides core funding to organisations, enabling them to grow and thrive. Other issues raised include:

Meeting was advised that this was a very competitive funding round with a total of 88 applications, requesting a total of £4.2m for a fund pot of £2.7m.

Executive Member informed the meeting that 61% recommended for funding is going to 'targeted' organisations, a 5% increase from 2021-24 in the level of funding going to organisations with a 'targeted' approach to working with residents with protected characteristics.

It was noted that 81% of delivery organisations are offering targeted services to residents with one or more protected characteristic.

RESOLVED:

That funding to the 51 organisations for the VCS Partnership Grants Programme across the 6 strands of the programme and detailed in appendix 1 is agreed.

That proposal to provide funding of £2,711,500 per full financial year and over the programme for four years totalling £10, 846,000 be agreed.

AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS

Reason for decision- as specified in the report

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensation granted – as detailed above

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

CHAIR