

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 11 July 2016

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 11 July 2016 at 6.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Andy Hull and Diarmaid Ward

Also present: **Councillors:** Theresa Debono and Mouna Hamitouche
(Observers)

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor Comer-Schwartz was elected to chair this meeting.

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Received from Councillors Marian Spall and Richard Watts.

99 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

Councillor Diarmaid Ward Substituted for Councillor Richard Watts.

100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

Councillor Theresa Debono declared an interest in agenda item B1 – Local Initiatives Fund awards – as a trustee of the Foodbank.

101 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

102 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)

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, subject to confirmation from Councillor Greening that he wished to make a contribution of his LIF allocation to the Foodbank, that this be incorporated into their grant.

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 11 July 2016

(c) That, subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) being satisfied that all necessary checks have been made and issues resolved, the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) be authorised to agree the allocation of up to £1,000 per Ward for proposals for summer events and activities received during the remainder of July and August 2016 and prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

(d) That it be noted that the Executive Member for Community Development would be informed of all events approved under resolution (c) above.

(e) That, for the future, the Foodbank be reminded that deadlines for submissions of proposals for funding must be adhered to.

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

103 **ISLINGTON ASSEMBLY HALL: FREE COMMUNITY USE FOR SPRING 2017 (Item B2)**

RESOLVED

That one free hire of Islington Assembly Hall be allocated to the following organisations for Spring 2017:

- 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

Reasons for decision

The scheme provided an opportunity for the Council to support local organisations through free use of the Assembly Hall

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

104 **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS (Item B3)**

RESOLVED:

(a) That discretionary rate relief in the sums indicated below be awarded to the following organisations, up to 31 March 2020:

- Light Eye - £316.82
- The Park Theatre - £1140.62
- Fourth Monkey Education Limited - £3544.11

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 11 July 2016

(b) That the applications from the British Heart Foundation, the British Red Cross and Clay Time Pottery be rejected on the basis that they do not meet the Council's criteria for discretionary rate relief.

Reasons for decision – Awarding discretionary rate relief to charitable and non-profit making bodies was a cost effective way of supporting local organisations and helped to sustain a healthy voluntary sector. A few of the organisations who had applied for discretionary rate relief were not eligible under the Council's criteria.

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

105 **ISLINGTON COUNCIL COMMUNITY CHEST: ROUND ONE GRANT AWARDS 2016/17 (Item C1)**

The Chair had agreed that this item be considered as urgent business as the next meeting of the Committee would not be held until September 2016 and it was important that grants were paid to the organisations concerned as soon as possible in order that they could continue their activities to support residents. In addition, the changes to the grant agreement with Cripplegate Foundation to transfer full responsibility for Islington Council's Community Chest to Cripplegate Foundation would help to streamline the decision-making process and reduce delays in notifying organisations of the outcome of their applications.

RESOLVED:

(a) That Islington Community Chest first round grant awards for 2016/17 be approved to the organisations detailed in Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development.

(b) That Funding of £200,000 be awarded to Cripplegate Foundation to be dispensed in accordance with the approved Islington Council Community Chest criteria (taking into account recommendations from the Islington Council Community Chest Panel) and that the current grant agreement with Cripplegate Foundation be amended accordingly.

Reasons for decision

To nurture and sustain an innovative and resilient voluntary and community sector in Islington, by providing resources for smaller organisations that find it hard to access funding from other programmes. In addition, the changes to the grant agreement with Cripplegate Foundation to transfer full responsibility for Islington Council's Community Chest to Cripplegate Foundation would help to streamline the decision-making process and reduce delays in notifying organisations of the outcome of their applications

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 11 July 2016

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

CHAIR