



AGENDA FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee will be held in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on, **21 July 2014 at 6.00 pm.**

John Lynch
Head of Democratic Services

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Despatched : 11 July 2014

Membership 2013/14

Councillor Richard Watts (Chair)
Councillor Andy Hull
Councillor Rakhia Ismail

Substitute Members

Councillor Janet Burgess
Councillor Joe Caluori

Observers

Councillor Aysegul Erdogan
Councillor Mouna Hamitouche
Councillor Jean-Roger Kaseki
(1 vacancy)

Quorum: is 3 Councillors



A. Formal Matters **Page**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declaration of substitute members
3. Declarations of interest

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 - 14

B. Matters for decision **Page**

1. Local Initiatives Fund 15 - 24
2. Islington Community Chest grant awards - round one 2014/15 25 - 30

C.	Matters for information	Page
1.	Scrutiny review - Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector through procurement - 12 month report back	31 - 44

D. 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.

E. 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.

F.	Confidential/exempt items for information (if any)	Page
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G. 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 will be on 30 September 2014

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VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE
17 March 2014

Minutes of the meeting of Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD on 17 March 2014 at 6.00pm.

Present:

Councillors: Andy Hull, Barbara Sidnell and Richard Watts

Observers: Councillors: None

Councillor Sidnell in the chair

125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Received from Councillor Kaseki.

126 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (A2)

None.

127 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A2)

None.

128 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2014 (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

Matter arising

Minute 124 (c) – London Councils' Grants Committee levy 2014/15

Councillor Hull requested that the decision to award the £20k rebate from London Councils' Grants Committee to Islington CAB to fund support for residents affected by welfare benefits reform, be notified to all partners in the Islington Advice Alliance.

129 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.

Councillor Sidnell proposed additional recommendations as follows:

“(i) That, in the period preceding and immediately after the local elections on 22 May 2014, funding of up to £1,000 per Ward councillor (£3,000 per Ward) be made available from 2014/15 Local Initiatives Fund allocations to fund applications from community groups for festivals, street parties, summer trips and other seasonal trips and activities and (ii) That applications submitted by Ward Councillors by 1 April 2014 be considered at the meeting of the Executive on 3 April 2014 and that consideration and agreement of any applications received after that date be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships), subject to the usual checks”

RESOLVED:

(a) That awards be approved in principle, 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 a sum of £1,000 per Ward be carried forward to enable small residue amounts of funding from the 2013/14 budget to be allocated more effectively in 2014/15.

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee – 17 March 2014

(c) That the budget amendments for Canonbury and Hillrise Wards, resulting from project underspends and detailed in Appendix A, be noted.

(d) That, in the period preceding and immediately after the local elections on 22 May 2014, funding of up to £1,000 per Ward councillor (£3,000 per Ward) be made available from 2014/15 Local Initiatives Fund allocations to fund applications from community groups for festivals, street parties, summer trips and other seasonal trips and activities.

(e) That applications submitted by Ward Councillors by 1 April 2014 be considered at the meeting of the Executive on 3 April 2014 and that consideration and agreement of any applications received after that date be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships), subject to the usual checks.

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.

130 **ISLINGTON COMMUNITY CHEST GRANT AWARDS – ROUND THREE 2013/14 (Item B2)**

RESOLVED:

(a) That Islington Community Chest grant awards be approved to the organisations detailed in Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Tenants, Residents and Communities.

(b) That the contract with Cripplegate Foundation for the management and development of Islington Community Chest until 31 March 2015 be approved.

Reason for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington. Islington Community Chest enabled funding to be directed towards meeting the needs of low income residents and disadvantaged communities.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

131 **COMMUNITY FESTIVALS FUND AWARDS 2014/15 (Item B3)**

RESOLVED:

That grants from the £16,000 Community Festival Fund for 2014/15 be awarded to the following organisations:

Angel Canal Festival, BVMO / Team Cally, Cubitt Gallery and Studios, Freightliners City Farm, Friends of Archway Market, Friends of Gillespie Park, Friends of Pooles Park, Holloway Neighbourhood Group, Islington Exhibits, Key Changes, Kings Cross Church, Little Angel Theatre, Manor Gardens Centre, Newington Green Action Group, New River Baptist Church, Oxjam Islington, Peel Institute, Reel Islington, Rowan Arts, London Met University, Resource for London Consortium, St Luke's Parochial Trust, St Mary's Church, Yaram Arts

Reason for decision

The Community Festivals Fund provided an opportunity for the Council to support local organisations to develop and deliver a broad range of events for local residents.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

132 ISLINGTON ASSEMBLY HALL: FREE COMMUNITY USE 2014/15 (Item B4)

RESOLVED:

That one free hire of Islington Assembly Hall be allocated to the following organisations in 2014/15:

- Cubitt Artists
- Freightliners Farm
- Islington Carers Hub
- Islington Mental Health Forum
- London Sinfonietta
- Manor Gardens Welfare Trust
- Mind Yourself
- Oxjam Islington
- Rowan Arts
- Sport Islington

Reason for decision

The scheme provided an opportunity for the Council to support local organisations.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/note of dispensations granted

None.

133 VOTE OF THANKS

This being her final meeting, Councillor Sidnell extended thanks to officers for their work in supporting the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Watts thanked Councillor Sidnell for all her valuable support to the Committee and the voluntary sector.

RESOLVED:

That a cordial vote of thanks be extended to Councillor Sidnell for her valuable work to support this Committee.

The meeting closed at 6.15pm.

Chair

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NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN MARCH 2014

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Strategy & Community Partnerships Comments
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	St Silas Relax, Stay and Play	Continuation of stay and play sessions for pre school children aged up to four years. Funding to support hall hire and two sessional workers for a 39 week period.	Ongoing from April 2014	Pre-school children and their parents /childminders	150 (25 children per week)	2,652	3,652	£1,000 through entry fees (underwritten by church)	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	All Saints Church (Breakfast Stop)	'Breakfast Stop' project which provides over 60 cooked breakfasts per week to the homeless and marginalised. Funding will contribute towards food costs.	As soon as the funding is received	Homeless and marginalised, 10% of which come from the Barnsbury ward	Approx 7 from Barnsbury ward per week, 60 to 70 people per week in total	400	4,000 per year	£1,000 from Clerkenwell Charities, balance to be funded by the church themselves	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Rainbows Play and Stay (All Saints Church)	Funding to contribute towards a year's hall hire for a parent and toddler group at All Saints Church. Group runs three sessions a week.	1 August 2013 to 31 July 2014	Under 5s, parents, childminders, carers especially those on low income	84 per year	2,000	4,030	£1 charge per child per session tbc, profits from in house café tbc	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	LBI Street Trading / LBI Street Env Services / LBI Community Safety / LBI Highways	Tarmacking of an area in North West Place to improve access to the Chapel Market stall storage area. This will enable stallholders to put away their stalls properly and provide less cover for anti-social behaviour.	Not yet confirmed	Residents and businesses on North West Place and Chapel Market stallholders	100 traders and 6 residents	1,000	4,000	£1,000 from Chapel Market Traders Association tbc	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / James Murray	Friends of Joseph Grimaldi Park	Festival in Joseph Grimaldi Park on 31 August. Funding to pay for entertainment, food, staff costs, equipment hire and transport.	31 August 2014	Mostly Barnsbury ward residents	1,500	3,500	3,500	Not applicable	Condition of the funding is that a detailed budget will be agreed with Friends of Joseph Grimaldi Park.

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Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Islington Bangladesh Association	International Women's Day celebration at Hugh Cubitt Centre. Guest speakers will be invited. Funding to contribute towards food, live entertainment, henna painting and hall hire.	19 March 2014	Bangladeshi, Algerian and other BME communities	120	800	1,000	£200 themselves	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Newlon Fusion (Barnsbury Community Centre)	Barnsbury Improved Lifestyle Initiative' Project at the Barnsbury Community Centre providing weekly fitness sessions and monthly forums on health. Funding to pay for instructor/mentor costs and refreshments.	April to Oct 2014	Targetted mainly at older women	Over 100	1,500	3,035.86	£1,532 themselves for equipment and for posters	
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Rupert Perry / Charlyne Pullen	Bemerton Villages Management Organisation (Cally Festival 2014)	Contribution towards the Cally Festival 2014 which aims to engage residents, community groups and local traders in the regeneration of Caledonian Road. A series of community arts engagement projects will be run prior to the festival. Funding to contribute towards staff and volunteers costs, entertainment and equipment, publicity and engagement.	Festival Sun 14 Sept, lead up activities before	Users of Caledonian Road, traders, residents and local community groups	7000	5,452.50	39,480	£34,028 tbc from pending applications to range of Islington council departments/ sections, trusts and private businesses.	
Canonbury	Paula Belford	Dorcas Befriending Project	Befriending scheme offering companionship and support to older people and disabled adults by visiting them in their homes each week. Contribution towards annual salary of part-time Project Co-ordinator.	Ongoing	Older and disabled people	60 to 80 per year	1,666.68	17,700	Remainder to be funded by Cripplegate and other charitable funds/donations	

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Clerkenwell	Steph Charalambous / Raphael Andrews	Back 2 Basics Create (swimming)	Twelve week swimming and spa programme at Ironmongers Baths for women who live in Clerkenwell and Bunhill wards. Funding to support costs of spa, project outreach worker, volunteers, project admin and overheads.	2014/15	Mainly Somali and Musim women	35	1,853	3,298	£1,260 through women's contributions tbc, £185 themselves for staff time	Condition of the funding is that a maximum of 15% of the grant should be spent on project overheads.
Page 7 Clerkenwell	Raphael Andrews	Algerian British Connection	Costs associated with ten computers which will mainly be used by women to learn computer skills and young people for school work or educational research. Funding to contribute towards costs for a year for an IT tutor, internet and phone, transport of computers, refreshments and cleaning products.	As soon as possible	Mainly women and young people	90+	1,500	3,060	£1,560 in kind for IT tutor	£3,100 Bunhill and Clerkenwell LIF allocated to this project in 2012-13 to purchase the ten computers.
Clerkenwell	George Allan	Access to Sports	Provision of a multi-sports programme at Three Corners for young people. Funding to contribute towards costs of two sports coaches, printing, promotion and sports equipment.	28 April to 27 July 2014 initially and may continue thereafter	Young people aged 11 to 19 living mostly in the EC1 area	Up to 100	2,176.67	5,176.77	£3,000 from Street Games tbc	
Finsbury Park	Michael O'Sullivan	Annette Road Gardening Group (hosted by Holloway Neighbourhood Group)	Funding for gardening materials, supplies and tools for Annette Road Gardening Group.	March to Sept 2014	Residents of Annette Road and Mayton Street	Details to follow	266.67	266.67	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	Strategy & Community Partnerships Comments
Highbury East	John Gilbert / Julie Horten / Terry Stacy	LBI Design and Conservation Team / LBI Planning and Development Management (Sotheby Road Conservation Leaflet)	Update and re-print of the Sotheby Road Conservation Area Leaflet. Funding to pay for staff time.	Apr-14	Residents and business owners in the Sotheby Road Conservation Area	Approx 497 properties and businesses	687.47	687.47	Not applicable	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Andy Hull / Richard Greening	One True Voice	Event at Elizabeth House to celebrate International Women's Day including health checks, activity taster workshops and information on health, employment, etc. Funding to support venue hire, publicity, refreshments, entertainment, workshop materials and volunteers.	8 March 2014	Women and girls of all ages	150	1,496	2,592	£800 in kind from Elizabeth House (for staffing), £296 in kind from Elizabeth House (venue hire)	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Andy Hull / Richard Greening	Rowan Arts (Mayton Street Festival)	Funding for the Mayton Street Festival which this year has a 'Meet The Neighbours' theme. Event is run in partnership with Holloway Neighbourhood Group as part of the larger Holloway Arts Festival. Funding will contribute towards performers and artists, insurance, publicity, production and other associated costs.	1 June to 8 June 2014	All local residents (but particularly those living in deprived local areas)	1,200	1,000	3,000	£15,000 ACE Funding, LBI Festivals Fund & LIF tbc, total of £11,400 tbc from tickets / stalls, Gunners Fund and sponsorship, remainder from in kind support	

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Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Andy Hull / Richard Greening	Legard Quadrant Residents Association	Funding to pay for gazebos, musicians, bouncy castle and advertising and printing costs for Legard Quadrant Summer Spree.	7 June 2014	Residents of Legard Road, Conewood Street, Highbury Park, The Loxfords, Pit House	100 households	500	1,000	£500 donations from residents	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Andy Hull / Richard Greening	Ambler School & Children's Centre	Free breakfast club and an outreach toy/book library to support disadvantaged families living primarily in Highbury West. Funding to pay for a meals supervisor, toys, books, magazines and newspapers.	June 2014 to July 2015	Targetted at low income and workless families	1,000	3,000	9,000	£6,000 from sponsorship/further fundraising tbc	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Andy Hull / Richard Greening	Friendship Network, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	Funding to make contact with older people in Highbury West ward and encourage those who are isolated and lonely to become members of the Friendship Network. Funding to contribute towards staff costs, publicity, transport and refreshments.	May 2014 to May 2015	Older people	5 to 10	1,004	3,302	£1,302 raised through fundraising event and individual donations	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Andy Hull / Richard Greening	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust / MER-IT	Twelve week course at Elizabeth House to teach children and young people about computer hardware and the installation of an operating system. Funding to pay for tutor costs.	24 April to 17 July 2014	Children and young people over 8 years old with little IT knowledge	12	500	2,084	In kind support from both groups totalling £1,584	
Hillrise	Lorraine Constantinou / Greg Foxsmith / Marian Spall	Sunnyside Community Gardens Association Ltd	Funding to pay for a petrol mower, tools, equipment and fees for a website designer to build a website for fundraising purposes.	April to May 2014	Garden volunteers to benefit directly (mainly older men with health issues), garden visitors indirectly	21 regular volunteers	1,500	1,500	Not applicable	

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Hillrise	Lorraine Constantinou / Greg Foxsmith / Marian Spall	Ashmount Primary School	Enhancing the music resources and provision within the school with a particular focus on providing disadvantaged students with access to instruments/tuition. Funding to contribute towards refurbishment of existing musical instruments, purchase of new instruments and extra tuition.	April 2014 to April 2015	Pupils who attend the school	361	1,350	3,110.94	Details to follow	
Hillrise	Greg Foxsmith	Baluji Music Foundation	Weekly music classes for blind and partially sighted residents at Outlook Islington as well as supplementary relaxation and yoga sessions. Funding to pay for instruments.	2 May to 15 August 2014	Blind and partially sighted Islington residents	8 to 12 per workshop, membership of 40	300	5,000	£3,000 Islington Council Community Chest	
Page 10 Hillrise	Greg Foxsmith	Access to Sports	Provision of a weekly programme of football coaching at Cape Youth Project and/or Elthorne Park in order to lead to a formation of a new team to participate in a local football league. Funding to contribute towards costs of football coaches.	April to Sept 2014	Young people aged 10-13 mostly from north Islington	65	906.68	2,740	£740 themselves	
Junction	Ursula Woolley	Girdlestone Gardening Club	Funding for an Open Day / Re-launch event, new gardening tools and equipment and renewal of public liability insurance.	Re-launch event in April / May 2014	Open to all	50 to 60	1,000	1,000	Not applicable	
Junction	Kaya Makarau-Schwartz / Ursula Woolley	St John's Upper Holloway CE Primary School	Playground redevelopment by improving the surface as well as installing a wide range of apparatus. Funding to contribute towards one of the items in the playground.	Late July to late August 2014	Schoolchildren	180	3,312.11	18,460	£15,148 already secured from within school and from local organisations, fundraising on-going	

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Junction	Janet Burgess	Whittington Park Community Association	Funding to contribute towards replacement of doors, gates and installation of shutters to improve security.	15 March to 15 April 2014	The local community who use the centre	700 per week	500	5,000	£1,480 from MAGPI	
Junction	Janet Burgess	Girdlestone Third Age Group	Provision of day trips for older people to reduce isolation. The group is supported by the Junction Safer Neighbourhood Team.	Ongoing	Older people	24	1,317.36	1,317.36	Not applicable	
St George's	Kat Fletcher	St Mungo Community Housing Association	Four neighbourhood events at Whittington Park café to enable local people (neighbours of the housing association) and homeless adults to interact in a positive way. The events will also allow local people to raise any issues they have, e.g. ASB. Funding to pay for hire of café, coffee, cake and travel costs for clients and their escorts.	April 2014 to March 2015 (meetings in April, July, Oct and Jan)	People living near St Mungos and homeless people	100 local people	1,000	1,000	Not applicable	
St George's	Kat Fletcher	Bardolph Road Street Party	Annual street party on Bardolph Road attended by residents of Bardolph, Tabley, Chambers and Crayford Roads and Cardwell Terrace. Funding to pay for bouncy castle, barbecue, tables, entertainment and printing.	27-Apr-14	Local residents	80 to 150 households on Bardolph Rd (and similar on each surrounding street)	420	420	Not applicable	

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St Mary's	Rhiannon Davis / Gary Poole	St Mary Upper Street (Soul In The City)	Week long festival as part of a 'Soul in the City' community cohesion initiative. Funding to contribute towards publicity, entertainment and music/stage equipment, community projects and refreshments.	28 May to 2 June 2014	Islington residents especially young people	Over 2,000	3,097.05	11,700	£5,000 St Mary's Islington PCC, total of £2,850 tbc from LBI Festival fund, Arimathea Charitable Trust and donations	
Page 12 St Peter's	Alice Perry / Gary Doolan / Martin Klute	LBI Highways (St James Church - landscape strategy)	Funding for a landscape architect to develop a landscape strategy in conjunction with ward councillors and local residents for the areas surrounding St James Church on Prebend Street and adjoining areas. The strategy will determine the plan for future landscape works.	To start in Spring 2014	All users of the public spaces and pavements in the area, i.e. churchgoers, residents, etc.	Unable to quantify	4,847	4,847	Not applicable	
St Peter's	Alice Perry / Gary Doolan / Martin Klute	LBI Highways (St James Church - Phase 1 landscape works)	Funding for landscape works in the areas surrounding St James Church on Prebend Street and adjoining areas. The exact programme of works will be defined by the landscape strategy listed above.	As soon as possible after the strategy has been developed	All users of the public spaces and pavements in the area, i.e. churchgoers, residents, etc.	Unable to quantify	6,500	6,500	Not applicable	

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St Peter's	Alice Perry / Gary Doolan / Martin Klute	LBI Highways (St James Church - landscape tidy up / maintenance)	Tidying up / maintenance of the area surrounding St James Church, e.g. pruning of shrubs, raising canopies of trees, removal of bushes and short term planting/turfing of beds. The exact programme of works will be agreed with ward councillors.	As soon as possible	All users of the public spaces and pavements in the area, i.e. churchgoers, residents, etc.	Unable to quantify	3,500	3,500	Not applicable	
Tollington	Richard Watts	Theatre Writers Workshop	Hire of rehearsal space at Hanley Crouch Community Centre for a series of drama workshops and performances for and by trans-gender people and their families.	2 June to 1 Sept 2014	Open to all but targetted at trans gender people and their families	8 to 12 performers, audience of 200	500	13,000	£12,500 Arts Council England	
Tollington	Catherine West / Jean Kaseki	LBI Library and Heritage Services / LBI Play and Youth Commissioning	Pilot 'Bookswaps' programme for Cornwallis, Timbuktu and Cape Adventure Playgrounds in partnership with their local library as part of the 'Islington Reads' strategy. Funding to pay for books, display stands and publicity.	To be set up between April and June 2014, ongoing thereafter	Mainly children and young people aged 6 to 19	Potentially 800 children and young people	2,899.74	3,900	£1,000 LBI Library and Heritage Services themselves	
Tollington	Jean Kaseki	Finsbury Park Trust (previously Finfuture)	Additional costs incurred for a Christmas lights switch on event for an illuminated Christmas tree on Stroud Green Road.	Switch on event on 16 Dec 2013, tree on display till 10 Jan 2014	Local residents. shoppers, visitors, local businesses and traders	50 for the main switch on event	135.60	938.60	£378 LIF, £425 from local businesses	
Tollington	Richard Watts	Another Way	An intergenerational multi-cultural evening to build trust and respect between older and younger people. Funding to pay for hall hire, food, entertainment and PA hire.	May to Dec 2014	Older and young people	60 to 80	400	775	£300 Islington Council Community Chest	

Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining

Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2013-14:	£320,000
Total allocations to be made from previous years' budgets:	£14,491
Amount allocated by VCS Committee to date:	£264,560
Balance remaining:	£69,931
New proposals for Mar Committee approval as at 17 Mar 2014:	£66,441
Total amount remaining to be carried forward to 2014-15:	£3,491

2013-14 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£741
Bunhill	£12
Caledonian	£0
Canonbury	£0
Clerkenwell	£0
Finsbury Park	£0
Highbury East	£426
Highbury West	£1,000
Hillrise	£0
Holloway	£0
Junction	£0
Mildmay	£0
St George's	£533
St Mary's	£0
St Peter's	£0
Tollington	£779

£3,491**Notes:**

Includes £19 to be reallocated from 2012-13 project underspend

Includes £43 to be reallocated due to a 2010-11 project underspend

Includes £1,667 to be reallocated due to 2011-12 and 2012-13 project underspends

Includes £912.75 unallocated LIF and project underspend from 2012-13

Includes £2,297 unallocated LIF and funding to be reallocated from 2012-13

Includes £4,827 unallocated LIF and funding to be reallocated from 2012-13

Includes £3,621 unallocated LIF from 2012-13

Includes £167 unallocated LIF from 2012-13

Includes £938 unallocated LIF and funding to be reallocated from 2012-13 and 2013-14

Budget allocations progress summary:

	Apr 2012 - Feb 2013	Apr 2013 - Feb 2014
Total allocations:	£250,724	£264,561

	2012/13	2013/14
Total projects funded:	175	199



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
VCS Committee	21 July 2014		All

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SUBJECT: LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 For many years Islington Council has provided support to voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough, including core grants, funding for advice services, discretionary rate relief, funding for local initiatives and community chest small grants. Despite having to implement an unprecedented scale of overall spending cuts in the Council's budget from 2011/12 onwards, the Council agreed growth of £1m per year to the voluntary and community sector to mitigate the impacts of funding cuts to the sector and to reflect the priorities of the administration elected in 2010 and its ambitions for fairness. It established a new single pot, the Islington Community Fund, totalling £3,435,000 per year. The Fund will remain in place for four years and is intended to protect vital frontline services in the most deprived areas of the borough.
- 1.2 An important element of the Islington Community Fund is the Local Initiatives Fund which has a funding allocation of £320,000 per year. Ward Partnerships have been established to strengthen the role of ward councillors and to create a mechanism for a more focused ward based approach across the borough. Each ward has £20,000 per year to spend on local schemes. As Ward Partnerships are not formally constituted committees of the Council, it is not legally possible for ward councillors to allocate funding. Instead it was agreed at Executive in March 2011 that they should make recommendations to the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee about the allocation of the Local Initiatives Fund. This report outlines the process for administering the Local Initiatives Fund and sets out the latest proposals submitted by ward councillors.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To consider the new proposals submitted by ward councillors as set out in Appendix A and to agree these proposals in principle subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 2.2 To note the Local Initiatives Fund applications received after 1 April delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) to approve, also set out in Appendix A. The process for approving and submitting applications in the period preceding and immediately after the local elections was agreed at VCS Committee on 17 March 2014 and is detailed at paragraph 3.8.

- 2.3 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 (Strategy and Community Partnerships) 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 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.
- 2.4 To note the amendments to the ward budgets resulting from project funding being returned. The amendments are included in the budget summary in Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 17 March 2011 the Executive 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 2011-12 onwards, the new Ward Partnership arrangements replaced the previous Area Committees which were abolished at Council on 31 March 2011.
- 3.2 A report relating to the Islington Community Fund was agreed by Executive on 17 March 2011. This proposed the creation of the Local Initiatives Fund to replace the existing £320,000 of Area Committee Budgets from 2011-12 onwards, with each ward having an allocation of £20,000 per year. Council subsequently agreed at its meeting on 31 March 2011 to reallocate the £320,000 comprising the Area Committee budget to the Local Initiatives Fund.

As Ward Partnerships are not formally constituted committees of the Council, it is not legally possible for ward councillors to allocate funding so an alternative mechanism was required to allocate the budgets previously managed by Area Committees.

- 3.3 At Executive in March 2011 it was agreed that a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Committee of the Executive be set up to oversee matters relating to Council engagement with the voluntary and community sector, including decisions around allocation of the Islington Community Fund. This committee enables Executive Members to steer funding towards those organisations and types of services they feel are of most value in tackling priorities around fairness, crime, housing and in enhancing the role of ward members in their local areas.

The Terms of Reference for the VCS Committee 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.

- 3.4 The Local Initiatives Fund enables councillors to respond directly to priorities in their ward that lie outside of the current mainstream funding programmes and might not otherwise receive funding. They enable councillors to suggest improvements to local services or facilities, which would benefit from financial assistance.
- 3.5 In April 2011, the VCS Committee agreed that each ward councillor be given a notional allocation of the Local Initiatives Fund budget (i.e. divided equally between the councillors elected for each ward). Councillors can then make recommendations as to how that money should be spent although the final decision (which used to sit with the Area Committees) is now taken by the VCS Committee. From 2011-12 onwards, £20,000 is available to each ward therefore the notional allocation for each councillor is £6,666.
- 3.6 The Third Sector Partnerships team in Strategy and Community Partnerships manages the Local Initiatives Fund budget in liaison with the Ward Partnerships and the VCS Committee. The team has a lead role in managing the Community Fund and incorporates this into other similar work. Increasingly the team is making links with other small grant programmes in Islington to ensure that funding is fairly

spread across the borough and provides good value for money.

- 3.7 At the VCS Committee on 17 March 2014, some wards had small residual amounts of their 2013/14 budgets left to allocate which would be more effectively used if put towards projects in the next financial year. It was therefore agreed to allow each ward to carry forward up to £1,000 to 2014/15.
- 3.8 In the period preceding and immediately after the local elections on 22 May 2014, it was anticipated that LIF applications would be received from community groups to fund festivals, street parties, summer trips and other seasonal events and activities.

At the VCS Committee in March, it was therefore agreed that up to £1,000 per ward councillor (i.e. up to £3,000 per ward) would be made available from 2014/15 LIF allocations to fund these events and activities. Any small underspends carried forward from 2013/14 was added to these amounts.

It was also agreed that applications submitted by ward councillors by 1 April 2014 would be considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee on 3 April 2014.

Any applications received after 1 April were delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) to approve. Agreement to fund was subject to the necessary paperwork being received from applicants, the normal checks being made by officers, and any other issues resolved.

It was agreed that awards approved under delegated authority would be reported to the first VCS Committee after the local elections. These awards are listed in Appendix A.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The £3,435,000 of Council funding referred to in this report, of which £320,000 for Local Initiatives Fund forms a part, has been created from amalgamating existing budgets within Environment and Regeneration and £1m of growth funding which has been bid for as part of the financial planning process.

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 grants for the voluntary and community sector is likely to promote the social and economic well being of Islington's residents. In exercising the general power of competence regard must be had to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy which has "improving access for all" as one of its objectives.

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.

No delegations were removed from the Executive at the time the VCS Committee was set up and it is therefore permissible for the Executive to carry out the functions of the VCS Committee if it wishes.

4.3 Environmental Implications:

When considering proposals the Executive 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.

When considering proposals the Executive will take relevant equalities implications into account. The recommendations in this report directly respond to concerns highlighted in the impact assessments of (a) the loss of Islington Strategic Partnership funding; and (b) the proposals for achieving savings across the Council. A further Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed to assess the impact of the new Islington Community Fund on different groups of residents. The impact was found to be mainly positive. Where actual or potential impacts were identified, further actions were proposed to mitigate these. A copy of the EIA was published as an appendix to the Islington Community Fund report to Executive Committee on 17 March 2011. The proposed Local Initiatives Fund allocations will not make any material difference to the findings of these earlier impact assessments.

5. **Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report will help to develop and sustain a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington. The Local Initiatives Fund provides an opportunity for the Council to fund small projects for which funding through other channels is unavailable. It is important that processes are clear and that they enable efficient and effective allocation of the available budget.

Appendices

Appendix A: Local Initiatives Fund Proposals

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Community Development

8 July 2014

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JULY 2014

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	No. of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Strategy & Community Partnerships Comments
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher / Robert Khan / Claudia Webbe	St Luke's Parochial Trust	Annual Whitecross Street Party including outdoor urban arts exhibition, festival in July and a ten week community arts outreach programme. Funding to contribute towards publicity, artistic costs, logistics, equipment and staff.	19 and 20 July 2014	Local residents, businesses, artists and visitors to the area	30,000	5,000	73,000	£20,000 LBI Section 106, £5,000 St Luke's Trust, Arts Council and further funding tbc	
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Una O'Halloran / Rupert Perry	Music for People	Funding for musician fees and expenses for concerts to be held at West Library in Bridgeman Road, Minerva Lodge and at the Cally Festival.	Sept 2014 to Sept 2015	Mainly older people	45 older people	500	700	Not applicable	
Finsbury Park	Michael O'Sullivan	Isledon Village Community Project (IVCP)	10th anniversary celebration of organising community events in Isledon Village. Funding to pay for wall display, bunting project, barbeques and a children's entertainer.	June to Sept 2014	All estate residents	1000+	2,000	5,500	£1,000 Family Mosaic, £500 from IVCP themselves, trusts and sponsors to be confirmed	
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh	Rowan Arts (Mayton Street Festival)	Contribution towards the Mayton Street Festival as part of the larger Holloway Arts Festival. The Mayton Street Festival will have a 'Meet the Neighbours' theme this year. Funding will contribute towards performers' fees, marketing, production and volunteer expenses.	June 2014	Local residents	1,200	2,000	33,880	Funding from a range of sources including LIF, LBI Festivals Fund. Arts Council tbc	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JULY 2014

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	No. of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Strategy & Community Partnerships Comments
Hillrise	Marian Spall	Caxton House Community Centre	Hillrise Community Fun Day in partnership with Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association. Funding to pay for activities, refreshments, publicity and volunteer costs.	16 August 2014	Residents and groups in Hillrise ward and surrounding areas	300 to 400	500	1,590	£590 in kind for room and equipment hire. £500 LIF agreed in April	
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Makarau-Schwartz	Whittington Park Community Association (Big Day Out 2014)	Big Day Out' in Whittington Park. Funding will contribute towards costs of staging a summer festival to mark the culmination of the Holloway Arts Festival. Event will include a range of activities and entertainment, workshops and stalls.	8 June 2014	All members of the local community as well as local groups	1,000	250	3,915	£750 LIF, £1,750 WPCA in kind support, income from stall hire, café and sponsors	
Junction	Kaya Makarau-Schwartz	Islington Pensioners Forum	Contribution towards staff costs of group which campaigns on behalf of older people and runs projects to reduce isolation and loneliness.	July 2014 to June 2015	Older people	600+	1,000	12,792	£3,000 VCS Grants Fund	
Junction	Janet Burgess / Tim Nicholls	Music for People	Two sing-along concerts at Duval House sheltered housing in Elthorne Road and one concert at Islington Mind in Despard Road.	Sept 2014 to Sept 2015	Older people and mental health service users	93	150	180		
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Makarau-Schwartz	Chabad-Lubavitch of Islington	Islington Menorah Lighting on Islington Green which celebrates Jewish cultural festival of Chanukah. Funding to contribute towards food, equipment hire and entertainment.	December 2014	People of all ages	300 to 500	550	5,690.51	Match funding through trusts and private sponsors to be confirmed	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JULY 2014

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	No. of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Strategy & Community Partnerships Comments
Junction / St Georges	All councillors in Junction and St George's ward	Friends of Foxham Gardens	Contribution towards the cost of the installation of seven information boards for a nature trail in the park.	August 2014 - August 2015	Park visitors	Unable to quantify	2,500	2,500		
Mildmay	Joe Caluori	Metropolitan Benefit Societies Almshouses	Three course Christmas dinner and entertainment for residents of the Almshouses and parishioners of neighbouring church.	December 2014	Older people	45 to 50	300	500	£200 to be fundraised	
Mildmay	Joe Caluori	Asian Elderly Luncheon and Social Club	Food and drink for celebrations of Eid, Diwali, Christmas and New Year.	22 Nov 2014 and 17 Jan 2015	Older people	35	500	500	Not applicable	
Mildmay / Tollington / Junction	Richard Watts / Jean Kaseki / Janet Burgess / Joe Caluori	Islington Play Association / LBI Play and Youth	Playday event in Paradise Park involving twelve adventure playgrounds. Funding to pay for resources for four play zones, transport, refreshments and equipment.	August 2014	Children and families from across Islington	1,000+	1,050	8,000		
Tollington	Richard Watts	See Saw Arts	An outdoor classroom in Evershot Road Park running daily creative arts and education workshops for five weeks. Funding to pay for travel and lunch expenses, art materials and publicity.	July and August 2014	Targetted mainly at schoolchildren aged 5 to 9	Up to 30	1,000	1,000	Not applicable	

ADDITIONAL SUMMER ACTIVITIES APPROVED BY ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (STRATEGY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS)

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Strategy & Community Partnerships Comments
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher / Robert Khan / Claudia Webbe	Friends of Fortune Street Park	Annual Fun Day in Fortune Street Park. Funding to pay for bouncy castles, entertainment, face painting, insurance and printing.	05-Jul-14	Local community	800	2,600	3,800	£850 themselves, £100 Waitrose, £250 tbc	
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Makarau-Schwartz	Whittington Park Community Association (Big Day Out 2014)	'Big Day Out' in Whittington Park. Summer festival to mark the culmination of the Holloway Arts Festival. Event will include a range of activities and entertainment, workshops and stalls. Funding will contribute towards staging costs, volunteer expenses, performers, publicity and associated event costs.	8 June 2014	All members of the local community as well as local groups	1000	750	3,915	£750 LIF, £1,750 WPCA in kind support, income from stall hire, café and sponsors	
Junction	Janet Burgess	Pemberton Gardens Big Lunch 2014	Big Lunch 2014 for residents of Pemberton Gardens and the surrounding area. Funding to pay for entertainment, bouncy castle, decorations and refreshments.	31 May 2014	Local residents	100+	500	1,000	£500 from Peabody tbc	
Mildmay	Rhodri Jamieson-Ball	Asian Elderly Luncheon and Social Club	Hire of a coach for a day trip to Margate.	5 July 2014	Asian older people who are often isolated, lonely and unable to travel	32	500	500	Not applicable	
St George's	Tracy Ismail	St Georges Avenue Street Party	Street party on St George's Avenue. Funding to pay for printing and the hire of road closure signs.	22 June 2014	Local residents	200 households	200	1,500	£190 reserves, £1,000 sponsorship tbc	
St George's	Kat Fletcher / Tracy Ismail / David Wilson	Crayford Road Gardeners	Annual Street Party. Funding to contribute towards costs of food, activities and entertainment	28 June 2014	Residents in Crayford Road and surrounding area	150+	1,000	1,000	None at present	

Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining

Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2014-15:	£320,000
Total allocations to be made from previous years' budgets:	£13,819
Amount allocated by VCS / Exec Committee to date:	£10,300
Amount allocated through delegated approval to date:	£5,550
Balance remaining:	£317,969
New proposals for July VCS Committee (as at 7 July 2014):	£17,300
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2014-15:	£300,669

2014-15 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£24,078
Bunhill	£12,412
Caledonian	£19,500
Canonbury	£20,673
Clerkenwell	£20,000
Finsbury Park	£13,000
Highbury East	£21,303
Highbury West	£20,966
Hillrise	£19,000
Holloway	£18,200
Junction	£17,678
Mildmay	£17,200
St George's	£17,170
St Mary's	£20,000
St Peter's	£20,930
Tollington	£18,559

Notes:

Includes £4078 unallocated LIF from 2012-13 and 2013-14

Includes £12 unallocated LIF from 2013-14

Includes £673 unallocated LIF from 2013-14

Includes £1303 unallocated LIF from 2013-14

Includes £1,966 unallocated LIF from 2012-13 and 2013-14

Includes £2428 unallocated LIF from 2012-13

Includes £870 unallocated LIF from 2013-14

Includes £930 unallocated LIF from 2013-14

Includes £1559 unallocated LIF from 2013-14

£300,669

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Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	21 July 2014		All

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SUBJECT: Islington Community Chest Grant Awards – Round One 2014/15

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 For many years Islington Council has provided support to voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough, including core grants, funding for advice services, discretionary rate relief, funding for local initiatives and community chest small grants. Despite having to implement an unprecedented scale of overall spending cuts in the Council's budget from 2011/12 onwards, the Council agreed growth of £1m per year to the voluntary and community sector to mitigate the impacts of funding cuts to the sector and to reflect the priorities of the administration elected in 2010 and its ambitions for fairness. It established a new single pot, the Islington Community Fund, totalling £3,435,000 per year. The Fund will remain in place for four years and is intended to protect vital frontline services in the most deprived areas of the borough.
- 1.2 An important element of the Islington Community Fund is the Islington Community Chest which has a funding allocation of £200,000 per year. The Community Chest has proved over the last few years to be a very effective way of developing the activities of small grassroots organisations tackling disadvantage in the borough. Grant awards of up to £5,000 per year are available for Islington-based organisations with a turnover of less than £100,000 per year. Cripplegate Foundation has been contracted to manage and develop the Community Chest and has added to the size of the Chest with a contribution from its own funds. This report sets out recommendations for awarding the first tranche of Community Chest funding for 2014/15.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the proposed Islington Community Chest grant awards as set out in Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 17 March 2011 the Council's Executive Committee agreed to set up a single Islington Community

Fund worth £3,435,000 over four years. At the same time it established a new Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Committee to manage the fund. £200,000 per year was allocated for Islington Community Chest with a maximum grant award of £5,000 per organisation per year.

- 3.2 Islington Community Chest is available to organisations with a turnover of less than £100,000. The priority is to support applications from the most deprived areas of the borough with a focus on:
- Advising and supporting people
 - Educating people and improving their skills and employability
 - Reducing isolation and increasing people's involvement in the community
 - Improving people's mental and/or physical health
 - Improving the local environment and making communities safer
- 3.3 Following consultation with the voluntary and community sector around options for a grants programme for small grassroots organisations, the Council agreed a one year contract with Cripplegate Foundation for the management and development of Islington Community Chest. VCS Committee agreed to an extension of this contract for subsequent years (2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15). The Council will be carrying out a review of Islington Community Fund during 2014/15 which will include consideration of future funding arrangements for Islington Community Chest.
- 3.4 In addition to the Council's provision of £200,000 per year for Islington Community Chest, Cripplegate Foundation has agreed to contribute £50,000 per year from its own funds. This increases the amount of funding available. It has been agreed that £36,000 per year will be allocated to Cripplegate Foundation to cover the costs of managing the Community Chest programme.
- 3.5 To ensure that there is a fair and robust assessment of Community Chest grant applications, a panel of nine people has been set up to consider grant applications and to make recommendations for awards to the VCS Committee and to Cripplegate Foundation Governors. The panel consists of three representatives from Islington Council, three from Cripplegate Foundation and three from the voluntary sector, nominated by Islington Community Network. It is chaired by the Council's Executive Member for Community Development and the vice-chair is a Cripplegate Governor. The quorum for panel meetings is five people. The panel also identifies wider issues arising from grant applications.
- 3.6 To increase the opportunities for organisations to apply for grant awards it was agreed at the VCS Committee meeting on 22 March 2012 to introduce an additional round of Islington Community Chest funding, making three rounds per year in total. The extra round benefits the many volunteer-led groups with low capacity. It also provides an additional opportunity for groups to attend 'How to apply' workshops and has led to an increase in the total number of applicants and the quality of applications. An annual celebration event is held to promote awareness of Islington Community Chest.
- 3.7 The first round of Islington Community Chest for 2013/14 opened for applications in February 2013 and awards totalling £74,962 were agreed by the VCS Committee on 16 July 2013. The second round for 2013/14 opened in July 2013 and awards totalling £74,156 were agreed by the VCS Committee on 14 November 2013. The third round for 2013/14 opened in October 2013 and awards totalling £68,382 were agreed by the VCS Committee on 17 March 2014. The first round for 2014/15 opened in February 2014. It was widely advertised to local groups through voluntary sector networks and forums and on the Islington Council and Cripplegate Foundation websites. Two 'How to apply' workshops were held before the deadline for applications and were attended by representatives of 14 organisations.
- 3.8 38 eligible applications were received for the first round of 2014/15 funding with a total requested amount of £167,587. As part of the assessment process grants officers at Cripplegate Foundation held face-to-face meetings with all applicants, offering additional support to groups where there were barriers such as language and disability. The Community Chest panel met on 4 July 2014 to consider applications submitted for the first round of funding and, after careful deliberation, agreed recommendations totalling £71,203 to 21 organisations. 48% of recommended applicants have not previously received funding from Community Chest. A list of organisations recommended for funding and the proposed grant award for each organisation is set out in Appendix A.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The £3,435,000 of Council funding referred to in this report, of which £200,000 for Islington Community Chest forms a part, has been created from amalgamating existing budgets within Environment and Regeneration and £1m of growth funding which has been bid for as part of the financial planning process.

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 grants for the voluntary and community sector is likely to promote the social and economic well being of Islington's residents. In exercising the general power of competence regard must be had to the Council's Sustainable Community Strategy which has "improving access for all" as one of its objectives.

4.3 Environmental Implications:

When considering grant recommendations 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.

When considering proposals the VCS Committee will take relevant equalities implications into account. The recommendations in this report directly respond to concerns highlighted in the impact assessments of (a) the loss of Islington Strategic Partnership funding; and (b) the proposals for achieving savings across the Council. A further Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed to assess the impact of the new Islington Community Fund on different groups of residents. The impact was found to be mainly positive. Where actual or potential impacts were identified, further actions were proposed to mitigate these. A copy of the EIA was published as an appendix to the Islington Community Fund report to Executive Committee on 17 March 2011. The proposed Islington Community Chest grant awards will not make any material difference to the findings of these earlier impact assessments.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report will help to develop and sustain a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington, in particular providing resources for smaller organisations that find it hard to access funding from other sources. The Community Chest supports the Council to take forward its ambitions around fairness and equality and enables funding to be directed towards meeting the needs of low income residents and disadvantaged communities.

Appendices

Appendix A: Recommended Grant Awards for Islington Community Chest – Round One 2014/15

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Community Development

8 July 2014

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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APPENDIX A

Recommended Awards For Islington Council's Community Chest Round One: July 2014

Organisation	Project/Activity	Proposed Grant Award (£)
Advise and Support People		
Betknowmore	Establishing the Islington Gambling Support Hub	4,900
Community Language Support Services	Costs of an outreach advice and support worker	5,000
Eritrean Community in the UK	One-to-one advice and workshops	5,000
Educate People and Improve their Skills and Employability		
Back to Basics	A sewing, literacy and numeracy project for parents	3,000
Islington Turkish, Kurdish & Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Setting up a choir	2,000
Improve People's Mental and / or Physical Health		
Angel Canal Festival	Costs of the 2014 festival	5,000
Islington South Community Counselling	Setting up a counselling service	2,610
Jannaty Women's Social Society	Sewing classes for women	4,260
Local Motion	A free cycle hire and employability training scheme	4,000
Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation	Costs of a support and advocacy worker	4,800
Stepping Stone4	A health outreach project	2,500
Improve the Local Environment and Make Communities Safer		
Arlington Association	A community gardening project	2,000
Crayford Road Gardeners	A communitiy gardening project	2,728
Reduce Isolation and Increase People's Involvement in the Community		
Blema Dancers	Summer holiday activities for children	2,500
Engage-Events	An intergenerational arts project	1,680
Finsbury & Clerkenwell Volunteers	Running costs of services for older people	5,000
Islington University of the 3rd Age	Outreach activities to increase membership	1,000
Maison Verte-UK	Costs of a group for parents with children under 5	5,000
Music for People	A music inclusion project for older people	5,000

Singalong Songs CIC	Sunday Singalong' events	2,025
Talking News Islington	Running costs of a talking newspaper for blind and partially sighted residents	1,200
	Total	71,203



**Report of: Executive Member for Community Development
Executive Member for Finance and Performance**

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	21 July 2014		All

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SUBJECT: Scrutiny Review – Supporting the Voluntary and Community Sector through Procurement – 12 Month Report Back

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The value of Islington Council’s funding to the third sector in 2013/14 is approximately £38.6m, an increase of 4.2 % on the previous year. However the trend is towards fewer contracts, with larger organisations winning them, and the number of contracts the Council holds with the VCS has reduced by nearly 30% since 2011. There is a concern that smaller local organisations could be squeezed out of the procurement process and that their knowledge and understanding of Islington’s communities, built up over many years, could be lost.
- 1.2 This report was considered by Communities Review Committee on 20 March 2014 and is being presented as an information item because of its relevance to the remit of the VCS Committee. It updates members on progress in implementing the recommendations of the Communities Review Committee’s report on ‘Supporting the local Voluntary and Community Sector in Islington through procurement’. It summarises the context of the review, the ambitions of the Committee, the response of Executive and the adoption of a VCS Procurement Action Plan, developed jointly by council officers and representatives of the local voluntary and community sector, which is being used to monitor progress and report on achievements.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To note progress to date on the recommendations contained in the report ‘Supporting the local Voluntary and Community Sector in Islington through procurement’ as set out in the VCS Procurement Action Plan (Appendix A).

3. Background

- 3.1 Islington’s Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) is vibrant and diverse, ranging from organisations with a turnover of a few thousand to millions of pounds a year. The borough has always fostered smaller community organisations, in a belief that organisations established by Islington residents, employing or offering volunteering opportunities for Islington residents, and providing services to Islington residents

can meet a need that may be neglected otherwise. Reductions in public expenditure and increases in demand for services are creating a very challenging environment for the local VCS to operate in and, without appropriate support and development, there is a risk that many of these organisations could disappear, leaving vulnerable residents isolated and exposed.

- 3.2 At the same time Islington Council is experiencing the biggest cut in funding that local government has ever faced and is anticipating the need to find further substantial savings over the next few years. In addition to large reductions in the Council's funding since 2011, the one-year Spending Review for 2015/16, announced in June 2013, revealed further significant cuts to non-protected government departments such as Communities and Local Government. It is therefore more important than ever that the Council obtains best value for its limited funds, both in financial terms and for the benefit of communities across the borough.
- 3.3 In September 2011 the Communities Review Committee commenced a scrutiny, with the overall aim of establishing the extent of local community benefit in Islington as a result of voluntary and community sector activity in the borough and exploring how this might be further developed. The objectives of the review were as follows:
- Establish the facts on VCS organisations in the borough and on Islington Council's funding to them.
 - Assess what the VCS in Islington contributes to Islington's community, beyond the requirements of service contracts e.g. how effectively does the sector engage with and involve local people, employ Islington people as staff and volunteers, and in what ways is it accountable to the local community?
 - Recommend ways in which Islington's VCS might develop in order to optimise levels of local community involvement, engagement, volunteering and benefit.
- 3.4 The review received evidence from a number of council commissioners and voluntary sector organisations in the borough, and reported its recommendations to the Executive in September 2012. The Communities Review Committee, while recognising in the current financial climate the Council has to achieve value for money when commissioning contracts, were of the view that more could be done to assist local organisations, particularly in the procurement process, where small organisations often have limited time and resources compared to larger national organisations.
- 3.5 In addition the Committee were of the view that there should be more assistance given to support local organisations to enable them to be aware of opportunities to work with other organisations when procuring services and to be more aware of what the Council values in terms of community benefit. The Committee hoped that its recommendations would establish a more level playing field for local organisations which would enable them to bid more successfully for tenders and use their local knowledge and experience for the benefit of the residents of the borough.
- 3.6 In July 2013 Executive accepted in full the recommendations of the Communities Review Committee and agreed the adoption of a VCS Procurement Action Plan. The plan was developed jointly by council officers and representatives of the local voluntary and community sector. Each of the Committee's recommendations has its own section in the plan with actions identified to support implementation. Lead departments/organisations have been identified for every action as well as timescales for achievement.
- 3.7 The VCS Procurement Action Plan (Appendix A) has been updated to show progress in implementing the Committee's recommendations. Some actions have been completed but many are ongoing and will continue to be monitored to ensure that procurement processes and decisions deliver the outcomes for Islington's communities envisaged by the Committee. Progress will be reported annually to the Council's Third Sector Strategic Forum, an officer group which has senior management representation from all the main commissioning areas. Voluntary Action Islington and Islington Community Network would like representatives of Islington's VCS to be part of this review process and the Council will consider how a more inclusive and transparent mechanism for reporting back can be facilitated.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The proposals detailed in the action plan will be delivered using existing budgets.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The Council has the power to carry out all the proposals detailed in the action plan under the general power of competence (Localism Act 2011, section 1). All the proposals, apart from those related to recommendation 3 of the action plan (related to Proportionate Procurement Processes) are such that there are no existing statutory restrictions that will apply when relying on the general power of competence. The proposals related to Proportionate Procurement Processes (recommendation 3) will need to be carried out in compliance with the requirements set out in the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the Council's procurement rules.

4.3 Environmental Implications:

None

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.

A Resident Impact Assessment isn't required in respect of the action plan. However, it is worth noting that the recommendations in this report promote local involvement in procurement processes and are likely to result in positive outcomes for groups of residents with protected characteristics. The VCS Procurement Action Plan has been developed with the involvement of Voluntary Action Islington and Islington Community Network, whose membership includes representation from BME, faith, refugee, disability, homelessness, health, advice, and age related forums.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 Good progress is being made in implementing individual actions arising from the recommendations of the Communities Review Committee. The value of contracts awarded to the VCS has increased in the last year but there are some risks to the spirit of the recommendations in that there seems to be a trend of fewer, and larger, organisations winning contracts which could lead to smaller local organisations losing out, particularly given the pressure for efficiencies. The VCS Procurement Action Plan will be kept under review by senior council officers and representatives of the local voluntary and community sector so that the ambitions of the Committee can be realised for the benefit of Islington's communities.

Appendices

Appendix A: VCS Procurement Action Plan

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Community Development

8 July 2014



Executive Member for Finance and Performance

8 July 2014

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

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1.3	Promote link to the Council's Contract Opportunities web page via the VAI website and VAI E-News.	VAI	Monthly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a link on the VAI website: http://www.vai.org.uk/services/support-for-groups/support-for-tendering/ A link to the relevant page of the Council website will be included in updates of VAI's funding booklet. When notified, opportunities are promoted on VAI News (electronic newsletter circulated to local VCS). 	Ongoing
1.4	Arrange provider events for bidders to understand more about proposed procurements.	SPT	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since July 2013 two provider events have been held. One in relation to a mental health service tender and the second in respect of offender services. SPT continue to include provider events within the procurement planning stage, where appropriate. An event relating to young people's sexual health services was held in January 2014. 	Ongoing
1.5	Identify procurement opportunities that are particularly suitable for a consortium approach and help consortia of local organisations to form to bid for these contracts.	Commissioners VAI/ICN	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAI chaired a meeting that brought together organisations interested in an Islington Big Lottery bid to support the development of services to reduce the isolation of older people – although unfortunately this was not successful. As part of the support programme for voluntary organisations working with children Voluntary Action Islington has run a workshop on working together. SCP is researching approaches in other boroughs to inform practice around consortia development in Islington. Council provides resources for capacity building from the VCS Grants Fund. 	Ongoing
1.6	Use the Directory of Islington's VCS to help commissioners develop lists of local organisations that are well placed to deliver particular services.	VAI	Update Directory during 2013/14; review annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directory of Islington's VCS is being updated and amended to provide additional functions that will support this. It is expected to be ready in April 2014. The Council will share the costs of updating the Directory with VAI. 	Ongoing

1.7	Arrange 'Meet the Buyer' events.	SPT	Dates to be published	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An event was organised for insourced Housing Repairs sub contractors. Further events to be organised during 2014, including a "design and print" provider event. Dates will be published on the Selling to the Council web pages and promoted via VAI E-News. 	Ongoing
1.8	Publicise training opportunities for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consortia Bidding Workshop Effective Bid Pricing Workshop Effective Tender Writing Workshop How to be successful at PQQ stage Understanding Terms and Conditions Workshop 	SPT	At least three of each workshop per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All 2013/14 sessions were publicised. Dates for 2014/15 training have been published on the Council's web page and will be promoted via VAI E-News: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Consortia Bidding</u> (full day) 10 June, 11 Nov, 10 March. <u>Effective Bid Pricing</u> (full day) 24 June, 25 Nov, 24 March. <u>Effective Tender Writing</u> (full day) 13 May, 15 Oct, 24 Feb. <u>How to be successful at PQQ stage</u> (half day) 22 April, 19 September, 20 January. <u>Understanding Contract Terms & Conditions</u> (half day) 22 April, 19 Sept, 20 January. 	Ongoing
1.9	Improve consistency in the quality of commissioning processes across Council departments.	SPT/ Commissioners	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from VCS at the time of the Scrutiny Review suggested a mixed experience of council commissioning. Council-wide Introduction to Procurement Training is regularly provided in conjunction with colleagues in Legal Services. The most recent session was on 12 March 2014. Further dates are being planned for 2014/15. Additional bespoke procurement training is provided as requested as part of procurement planning. The Procurement Toolkit on IZZI is accessible to all commissioners. It includes a suite of guidance, templates, etc to support the procurement process. The toolkit is regularly reviewed and updated as necessary. Debriefing on all procurements takes place to inform continuous improvements to approach/process. 	Ongoing

Recommendation 2: Long Term Planning – Council contracts and grants should be for three years, where possible, in line with the Voluntary Sector Compact

Ref	Action	Who leads	When	Progress / Comments	Timeline
2.1	Maintain commitment that, where possible, all contracts and grants should be for at least three years.	SPT	As per contract advert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All contract and grant awards are for at least three years. The only exception to this is where funding is passported from central government (or other external agencies) for specific purposes over shorter timeframes. This is a commitment in the Voluntary Sector Compact. 	Ongoing
2.2	Islington Council will challenge proposed procurements for short durations as part of good practice and the work of the Procurement Board.	SPT	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is discussed at procurement planning stage and reflected in business cases. Higher value contracts can be challenged at Procurement Board. Guidance is included in procurement training sessions. 	Ongoing
2.3	Maintain ongoing dialogue with VCS organisations throughout the life cycle of contracts, and especially in the final year, so that they can position themselves to apply for future contracts or plan ahead for losing funding when contracts end.	Commissioners	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is included in procurement training for commissioners and in the Procurement Toolkit. Procurement Board maintains oversight of processes. The Third Sector Strategic Forum helps to develop and share best practice across the Council. Feedback from VCS is that some funders (e.g. the Lottery) are more upfront about whether funding is likely to be renewed and this allows organisations more time to plan ahead. 	Ongoing
2.4	Develop decommissioning guidance including template letters to notify end of contract period.	SPT	In place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decommissioning Guidance is now published in the Procurement Toolkit, including 'exit strategy' guidance for commissioners for the final 12 months of contracts. Template letters are available in the Procurement Toolkit. 	COMPLETE

Recommendation 3: Proportionate Procurement Processes – The Council should design procurement and grant processes to be proportionate to the amounts of money bid for

Ref	Action	Who leads	When	Progress / Comments	Timeline
3.1	Advise and (where necessary) challenge commissioners to achieve proportionality in procurement processes.	SPT	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is Important to consider the costs of procurement relative to the value of the contract. This is discussed at procurement planning stage and reflected in business cases. Higher value contracts can be challenged at the Procurement Board. SPT have models of best practice for commissioners to use and it is included in procurement training sessions. 	Ongoing
3.2	Training session for commissioners to be provided by the Council on proportionate procurement.	SPT	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is covered as part of the Council's Introduction to Procurement Training for staff and also in any bespoke training sessions within departments. VAI/ICN to be invited to provide a third sector perspective to procurement training. 	Ongoing
3.3	VCS to bring to the Council's attention any examples where proportionality in procurement is not being achieved.	VAI/ICN	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is considered at meetings of relevant community networks. There are no recent examples to report. There is a commitment in the Compact to simplicity and proportionality in processes relative to the amounts involved. 	Ongoing
3.4	Commissioners should consider TUPE implications when awarding or reassigning contracts.	Commissioners	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on TUPE is included within the Procurement Toolkit. Standard cover letters and TUPE schedules are also included. 	Ongoing

3.5	Senior management to provide effective oversight of commissioning processes and sign off decisions on contract awards.	SPT	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Procurement Board which has senior officer and member involvement meets monthly. The Board challenges procurement strategies for tenders of £500k+ in line with procurement rules and value for money considerations. SPT ensures all governance arrangements are followed and include Executive sign off (over £500k) or Director approval (under £500k). Senior SPT staff are actively involved in forward planning of procurements and ensuring that contracts are recorded on the Corporate Contracts database. 	Ongoing
3.6	Timetables for procurement to be published to bidders at earliest reasonable opportunity.	SPT	As required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timetables are included within tender documentation. 	Ongoing
3.7	Commissioners to provide quality feedback on each stage of tender process to bidders.	SPT/ Commissioners	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback is mandatory at each stage of procurement. Standard templates are in place within the Procurement Toolkit and content is checked by SPT to ensure good quality responses. 	Ongoing
3.8	Proper assessment to be made whether a grant or a contract is to be undertaken.	LS	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts need to be procured in compliance with the legal rules on procurement. Standard contract terms have been developed by LS for these. In some cases it is more appropriate to give a grant rather than let a contract. Grant agreements are outside the scope of the rules on public procurement. Standard grant conditions have been developed by LS for such agreements. The majority of agreements established between the Council and VCS organisations, even where they involve funding from identified sources referred to as “grants”, take the form of contracts with specified outputs/outcomes in return for the funding that is provided. Advice is provided by LS as required on the application of procurement rules and in choosing the appropriate standard form of agreement. 	Ongoing

Recommendation 4: Specify Community Benefit – The Council should make clear in its procurement processes what sort of benefits to the community it wants to see from successful bidders

Ref	Action	Who leads	When	Progress /Comments	Timeline
4.1	Prepare guidance for commissioners, procurers and contract management on the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.	SPT	In place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance has been prepared (April 2013) to show how social value can be considered as part of supply chain management processes. It will be subject to review, including meetings with VAI/ICN. A flexible approach, using broad questions, gives local VCS more opportunity to demonstrate social value. SCP (Policy and Equalities) is working work with SPT to introduce 'Resident Impact Method Statements'. These would need to be properly scored in the tender evaluation process. 	Ongoing
4.2	Continue to invite service users and representatives of VCS organisations to sit on tender panels and provide training to support them where appropriate	SPT	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service users/family carers/residents are involved as appropriate on a range of procurement panels. SPT works closely with the Service User Involvement Officer to ensure procurement policy and practice is kept up to date. Feedback from representatives of service users is sought on completion of a tender exercise. Over the last two years, 16 procurements have involved 26 individuals representing service users, VCS organisations or specialist advisors. Guidance on service user participation on tender panels is currently being finalised. Tender evaluation guidance has been prepared to ensure the Panel Chair addresses service user participation in the early planning stages. 	Ongoing

Recommendation 5: Demonstrate Impact – VCS organisations need help to demonstrate impact and the difference their services make to residents

Ref	Action	Who leads	When	Progress / Comments	Timeline
5.1	Arrange workshops to help local VCS organisations get better at demonstrating social value and the difference their services make to residents.	VAI/ICN	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A workshop on describing the difference your organisation makes was included in the January 2013 children's support programme. Council supports through its funding for VCS infrastructure e.g. to VAI, networks and forums, and community hubs. Introduction of 'Resident Impact Method Statements' will help VCS to demonstrate social value (see 4.1 above). 	Ongoing
5.2	Raise awareness of resources designed to help identify, assess and provide evidence of impact, and promote their use locally.	VAI/ICN	As required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant resources brought to the attention of groups in one-to-one and workshop sessions. Further work to be undertaken on web site resources. Examples: Social Impact Toolkit on VAI website; NCVO Code of Good Impact Practice; NEF Guide to Social Return on Investment. 	Ongoing

Recommendation 6: Gap Analysis – Islington Council should continue to map all funding to the VCS on an annual basis

Ref	Action	Who leads	When	Progress / Comments	Timeline
6.1	Continue to map all funding to VCS on an annual basis and publish on the VCS funding pages of the Council's website.	SCP	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First year of mapping was 2010/11. • Mapping of VCS Funding for 2013/14 has been completed and published on the VCS funding pages of the Council's website. 	Ongoing
6.2	Give detailed feedback to organisations when they fail to win tenders.	Commissioners	Already happening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Included in procurement training for commissioners and in the Procurement Toolkit. • It is a legal requirement for feedback to be provided as part of a tender process. 	Ongoing
6.3	Develop guidance on providing feedback in general on tender evaluations.	SPT	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance is now included in the Procurement Toolkit. It was also covered in the December 2013 edition of the Procurement Newsletter, distributed to all commissioners and stakeholders. • SPT to provide guidance to VAI for inclusion on their website. 	COMPLETE
6.4	Use the annual VCS Conference and other relevant forums to assess the health of the voluntary sector in Islington, including risks facing local organisations, and to promote awareness of support services available.	VAI/ICN to coordinate	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The risks facing local organisations are discussed at meetings of ICN and issues brought up at the VCS Annual Conference are assessed and acted on. • VAI reported back at the 2013 Conference on recommendations agreed at the 2012 Conference. A report on recommendations from the 2013 Conference has been completed. • Support services are promoted using email, publicity materials and by attendance at relevant events as resources allow. 	Ongoing

Recommendation 7: Closer Collaboration – Islington Council and the funders of small frontline organisations should work together to share knowledge and information

Ref	Action	Who leads	When	Progress / Comments	Timeline
7.1	Islington Council and Cripplegate Foundation, as the primary funders of small frontline organisations, to work together to share knowledge and information.	SCP and Cripplegate Foundation	At least three times per year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cripplegate Foundation prepares an analysis of applications for each round of Community Chest and shares this with Islington Council. Information about Local Initiatives Fund awards is made available to members of the Community Chest Panel when they meet. The aim is to ensure that funding from Community Chest and from Local Initiatives Fund is complementary and avoids duplication. 	Ongoing
7.2	Encourage local funders to attend the annual VCS Conference in order to gain a better understanding of the needs of local organisations.	VAI/ICN	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local funders are invited to provide stalls and participate in workshop discussions. Islington Giving attended the 2013 VCS Conference. A briefing is being organised so that City Bridge can explain their new funding priorities to the local voluntary and community sector. 	Ongoing