



AGENDA FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE

Members of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee are summoned to a meeting which will be held in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **17 November 2014 at 6:00pm.**

**John Lynch
Head of Democratic Services**

Enquiries to : Mary Green
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Despatched : 5 November 2014

Membership 2014/15

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	

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 meeting held on 30 September 2014	1 - 10
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B. Matters for decision	Page
1. Local Initiatives Fund	11 - 18
2. Islington Community Chest grant awards: round two 2014/15	19 – 24

C. Urgent non-exempt matters

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

D. Exclusion of press and public

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

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

Page

F. Urgent Exempt Matters

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

The next meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee will be on 19 January 2015

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London Borough of Islington

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 30 September 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30 September 2014 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors: Rakhia Ismail (Chair) and Andy Hull

Observers: Councillors: Mouna Hamitouche and Jean Roger Kaseki

Councillor Rakhia Ismail in the Chair

8 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)**

Apologies were received from Councillor Watts.

9 **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)**

There were no declarations of substitute members.

10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)**

There were no declarations of interest.

11 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

12 **LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND (Item B1)**

A revised 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.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the new proposals submitted by Ward Councillors and detailed in revised Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be improved 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.

(b) That a minimum award of £250 per project be approved from 1 October 2014.

(c) That the amendments to Ward budgets resulting from the return of project funding, detailed in revised Appendix A of the report, be approved.

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.

13 **SUPPORT TO LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS: DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF (Item B2)**

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the response from the voluntary sector to a recent consultation on the Council's support to local voluntary organisations, as summarised in Appendix B to the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be noted.
- (b) That a review of discretionary rate relief commence and that recommendations for future funding be submitted to the Committee in January 2015.
- (c) That new awards be approved for three years, from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018, with an option to extend for up to a further two years.
- (d) That it be noted that applications from organisations which become eligible for discretionary rate relief after these awards have been made will be considered by the Committee twice a year.

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.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

The meeting ended at 6.25 pm.

CHAIR

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 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
Barnsbury	Jilani Choudhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Chabad-Lubavitch of Islington	Islington Menorah Lighting on Islington Green which celebrates the eight day long Jewish cultural festival of Chanukah. Funding to contribute towards food, equipment hire, entertainment and payment to contractors.	21-Dec-14	People of all ages	300 to 500	500	5,285.51	£1,000 Hirsch Foundation tbc, £800 private donor tbc	£2,011.83 LIF awarded at the July VCS Committee.
Barnsbury / Caledonian / Clerkenwell / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Caledonian and Clerkenwell wards / Jean Kaseki / Richard Watts	Islington Bangladesh Association	Project aims to help older people mainly in Barnsbury and Caledonian wards develop healthy eating habits and improve their physical fitness. Funding to contribute towards food for luncheon club, sessional staff, a cook, exercise tutor, hall hire, refreshments and publicity.	6 Oct 2014 to 30 Sept 2015	Older people aged 50+ especially those from a BAME background	70 to 75 per week	8,000	13,200	£1,000 LIF from Holloway tbc, £3,000 Nationwide Foundation tbc, £1,200 participants' contributions tbc	
Barnsbury / Finsbury Park / Highbury West / Hillrise / Junction / St George's / St Peter's / Tollington	All councillors of Highbury West, St Peter's and Tollington wards / James Murray / Gary Heather / David Poyser / Marian Spall / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls / Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill	Nag's Head Town Centre Management Group	Annual Christmas event in the Nag's Head Town Centre. Funding to contribute towards cost of entertainment, traffic/crowd management measures, publicity and other associated running costs of the event.	30 Nov or 7 Dec 2014	Islington residents, local businesses, schools and community organisations	20,000	4,000	22,000 to 23,000	£750 Holloway LIF tbc, £6,000 from sponsorship, £7,200 in kind support, £1,600 tbc from fairground operator and market stall holders	

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Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	All Saints Church / Rainbows Stay and Play	Funding to contribute towards 22 weeks of rent and toys for a stay and play group for children under 5 years of age. The group is open three days a week.	Sept 2014 to Sept 2015	Children under 5 years of age and their parents / carers	120 members	2,976	5,952	£2,976 LIF from Caledonian ward tbc	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Friends of Barnard Park	Pop-up cafés in Barnard Park over three Sundays in May and June 2015 in partnership with the Adventure Playground and Bemerton Estate Children's Centre. Funding to pay for entertainment, publicity, equipment and volunteer expenses.	Three Sundays in May and June 2015	Local residents	700+	1,500	2,500	£500 proceeds from coffee/cake sales, £500 themselves	
Page 4 Caledonian	Paul Convery / Una O'Halloran / Rupert Perry	Bemerton Villages Management Organisation	Contribution towards the Cally Festival 2014 which engages residents, community groups and local traders in the regeneration of Caledonian Road. Funding to contribute towards publicity, staging, equipment and other associated running costs.	07-Sep-14	Mainly local residents	9,000	10,000	40,000	£16,000 LBI funding (S106, Festivals Fund and LIF), £9,500 private sponsorship, £2,000 festival income	£5,452.50 LIF awarded to this event in Mar 2014.
Clerkenwell	Raphael Andrews	Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers	Contribution to annual line rental and call costs to enable volunteers to make phone calls to about 100 clients and their families in the evenings and weekends as well as in the daytimes.	April 2014 to March 2015	Mainly older and disabled people who live alone	100	1,500	4,500	£3,000 themselves	
Clerkenwell	Raphael Andrews	Charles Rowan House Tenants & Residents Association	Funding to get brickwork cleaned at the two entrances to the Charles Rowan House courtyard prior to other improvements (signage, lighting and CCTV).	Oct to Nov 2014	Residents of Charles Rowan House	192 to 288	500	2,460	£960 from other funders tbc	£1,000 LIF awarded at the July VCS Committee.

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Clerkenwell	Raphael Andrews / Alice Donovan / James Court	Rowan Arts	Funding will contribute towards the building of a Clerkenwell Life website, publicity, the costs of a coordinator and volunteers who will promote the website to local residents. There will be a programme of volunteering and training opportunities. The website aims to encourage local people to feel part of a community using a digital platform to promote networking and information sharing.	Oct 2014 to June 2015	Local residents especially those who are unemployed or who need upskilling	200-300 through LIF and rising in the future	3,000	6,000	£3,000 sponsorship from local businesses tbc	
Clerkenwell	Alice Donovan / James Court	Hugh Myddleton Primary School	Pilot Saturday drop in Family Arts Club in the school's Spa Green building for two terms. The artwork made by the families will be exhibited at the Islington Museum and Library and at the Islington Exhibits festival. Funding to pay for tutors and materials.	17 Jan to 11 July 2015	Local families	60	2,000	5,960	£3,000 other funding tbc, £960 income from families attending tbc	
Finsbury Park	Asima Shaikh	Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Funding to support small women's community groups in Finsbury Park which will involve arranging networking meetings, offering practical support and providing one to one capacity building support.	October 2014 to April 2015	Community groups providing services to women in Finsbury Park	11 community groups	500	500	Not applicable	
Highbury East	Aysegul Erdogan / Osh Gantly / Caroline Russell	Canning Road Pop Out and Play	Quarterly Pop Out and Play event on Canning Road to enable children to play in the street safely and with more space than usual. Funding to pay for play equipment.	Every three months - next events in Sept and Dec	Canning Road and other local residents	100+	257	257	Not applicable	

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Highbury East	Aysegul Erdogan / Osh Gantly / Caroline Russell	The Olden Garden Community Project	Funding for new tools and equipment which will enable the group to widen their user groups.	As soon as the funding is received	All sections of the local community	200+	300	443.25	£143.25 from fundraising events in the garden	
Highbury East	Aysegul Erdogan / Osh Gantly / Caroline Russell	Home-Start Islington	Eight week accredited volunteer training programme for parents who will then support families in their own homes. Funding to pay for travel, publicity, materials, refreshments and supervision sessions.	Sept 2014 to Mar 2015	Families and carers as well as Islington residents seeking volunteering	12 volunteers would help 36 families per year	1,000	1,116.80	Not applicable	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Richard Greening / Andy Hull	Music for People	Musician fees, volunteer expenses and travel and subsistence costs for twelve sing and play-a-long sessions and four special occasion concerts at the Stress Project (e.g. at Christmas, Easter, etc)	Nov 2014 to Oct 2015	Older people and mental health service users	200	1,120	1,120	Not applicable	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Richard Greening / Andy Hull	Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Funding for 22 sessions of a weekly drop in clinic at the Stress Project in Shelburne Road offering a variety of therapies and which will be run by volunteers. Funding to pay for salaries, volunteer expenses, therapy supplies, refreshments and a contribution to the premises.	1 Oct 2014 to 25 March 2015	Highbury West residents who experience acute stress, anxiety and mental health problems	50	1,800	4,313	£1,589 in kind support (premises), £924 through donations for treatments	

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Hillrise / Junction Page 7	David Poyser / Marian Spall / Janet Burgess / Tim Nicholls	Talking News Islington	Running costs of a monthly talking newspaper for blind and partially sighted residents which is distributed in CD and tape format. Funding to contribute towards stationery, printing, postage, materials and other associated running costs.	On-going	Blind, visually impaired and print disabled	135	800	5,000 per year	£1,000 Greater London Fund for Blind, £1,000 Blind Aid, £1,200 LBI Community Chest, £1,000 LBI Strategy and Community Partnerships tbc	
Hillrise	David Poyser	Hills Community Trust	Contribution to 48 week course in handicrafts (knitting, crocheting, glass and ceramic painting and pottery). Funding to contribute towards room hire, refreshments and craft materials.	Sept 2014 to Sept 2015	Local residents	100+	500	1,000	£500 LIF tbc	
Hillrise	David Poyser / Marian Spall	Art Therapy 4 All CIC	Weekly art therapy group for older residents at Cheverton Lodge Care Home run by a trained arts psychotherapist. Funding to contribute towards the art psychotherapist's salary and art materials.	Nov 2014 to May 2015	Older residents of Cheverton Lodge	15	1,000	4,155	£1,175 Cheverton Lodge through their activities budget	

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Hillrise	David Poyser / Marian Spall	Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association	Funding for three laptops (including software and anti-virus protection) and for an older people's Christmas party. Funding to contribute towards party food, entertainment, a raffle, decorations and publicity.	Laptops to be bought immediately, party on 20 Dec 2014	Older people and unemployed local people	80	1,500	2,325	£125 donations, £200 City Bridge	
Page 8 Junction	Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Archway Town Centre Group	Cleaner Safer Archway Week, which will focus on cleaning up the Archway town centre and residential areas and improving community safety. Local school children are to design a poster advertising the initiative. Funding to pay for a photographer, prize money for the winning design and the cost of producing posters.	22 to 26 Sept 2014	Residents, visitors, employers and employees based in or near Archway town centre	10,000+	350	950 (not incl staff time)	£500 LBI Strategy and Community Partnerships, £100 themselves	
	Janet Burgess	Girdlestone Third Age Group	Contribution to the provision of day trips and lunches for older people to reduce isolation. The group is supported by the Junction Safer Neighbourhood Team.	Ongoing	Older people	27	800	3,000	£2,000 LBI Community Chest tbc	
Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay / Ollly Parker	The African and Caribbean Senior Citizens Organisation of Islington and Hackney	12 weeks of running costs for an older people's group which meets every Friday at the Mildmay Community Centre. Funding to pay for hall hire, games, food, cook and assistant, utilities, transport and volunteer expenses for home and hospital visits.	1 Dec 2014 to 28 Feb 2015	Older people of African or Caribbean descent from Islington, Hackney and Haringey	45	996	996	Not applicable	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER 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
St Marys	Angela Picknell / Gary Poole / Nurullah Turan	The Margins Project	Weekly Cold Weather Night Shelter at Union Chapel run in conjunction with CARIS Islington for 13 weeks providing accommodation, shelter and advice on resettlement and health issues. Funding to pay for volunteers' travel expenses, food for the 13 weeks and a contribution to the salary of the project manager.	1 Jan 2015 to 26 Mar 2015	People who are homeless	17 per week (221 beds over the whole period)	2,767	2,767	Not applicable	
Tollington	Jean Kaseki	Hanley Crouch Community Association	Funding for a film showing of 'Benda Bilili!' as part of Black History Month. The film is about a band of Congolese musicians who overcame extreme poverty and physical disability to become world music stars. Funding will pay for printing/publicity, refreshments and performances/hire of the PA system.	15-Oct-14	All Islington residents	80	500	550	£50 through donations at the event	

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:	£17,806
Amount allocated by VCS / Exec Committee to date:	£89,434
Balance remaining:	£248,373
New proposals for September VCS Committee:	£48,166
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2014-15:	£200,207

2014-15 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£14,822
Bunhill	£9,162
Caledonian	£6,500
Canonbury	£20,673
Clerkenwell	£6,649
Finsbury Park	£4,850
Highbury East	£19,076
Highbury West	£16,286
Hillrise	£9,567
Holloway	£9,580
Junction	£16,732
Mildmay	£13,384
St George's	£13,470
St Mary's	£6,379
St Peter's	£19,970
Tollington	£13,106
	£200,207

Notes:

Includes £4,078 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £12 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £673 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £333 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,303 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,966 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £5,432 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £870 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,580 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,559 from previous years' LIF allocations



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	17 November 2014		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The voluntary and community sector lies at the heart of the council's ambition for a fairer Islington. In 2011 an Islington Community Fund was established to support local organisations working with the borough's diverse communities and to help them respond to the needs of vulnerable residents. An important element of the Islington Community Fund is the Local Initiatives Fund which has a funding allocation of £320,000 per year. Each ward has £20,000 per year to spend on local schemes. Ward councillors consider project ideas for their ward and make recommendations to the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. 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 In the lead up to the Christmas period, it is expected that applications will be received from community groups to fund Christmas parties or related events. 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. 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.

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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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 employment, crime, housing and in enhancing the role of ward members in their local areas.
- 3.5 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'.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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. In September 2014 the VCS Committee agreed to introduce a minimum award of £250 per project.
- 3.8 The Third Sector Partnerships team in Strategy and Community Partnerships manages the Local Initiatives Fund budget in liaison with ward councillors 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.

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, was created from amalgamating existing budgets within Environment and Regeneration and £1m of growth funding which was 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.

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

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Community Development

4 November 2014

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report Author: Jo Eve
Tel: 020 7527 3143
Email: jo.eve@islington.gov.uk

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 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
Canonbury	Alexander Diner	Essex Road Giants FC	Twice weekly football training sessions for young people from the Marquess Estate. Funding to pay for Willam Tyndale pitch hire fees for 25 weeks.	Dec 2014 to May 2015	Young people from the Marquess Estate	20 to 25	1,750	1,750	Not applicable	
Clerkenwell	Alice Donovan	Peel Institute	Christmas carol concert and evening reception at Holy Redeemer Church. Transport will be provided for older people. Funding to pay for catering and publicity.	09-Dec-14	Local residents	120	350	500	£150 from Friends of the Peel	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Richard Greening / Andy Hull	Highbury Roundhouse	Series of six workshops about graffiti art which aims to develop the skills of young people. The resulting piece of art work will be exhibited at a Shoreditch gallery and then displayed at Aubert Court Community Centre. Funding to pay for a graffiti arts tutor, youth worker, equipment and materials.	4 Nov to 16 Dec 2014	Young people living in Highbury West directly, the local community indirectly	20 young people	1,233.36	1,233.36	Not applicable	
Junction / St Georges	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls / Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	LBI Public Lighting	Installation, removal, maintenance and energy of festive lighting in 5 street trees and 4 festive lamp columns in Campdale Road and Tufnell Park Road.	1 Dec 2014 to 5 Jan 2015	Especially local businesses and visitors to the area	All local residents	3,990.45	3,990.45	Not applicable	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 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	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls	Girdlestone Third Age Group	Weekly art sessions for an older people's group facilitated by Cubitt Arts. The work will be exhibited and then permanently displayed in the community centre. Funding to pay for an experienced Cubitt artist, materials and an exhibition.	December 2014 to December 2015	Older people	27	2,520	5,020	£2,000 LBI Community Chest, £500 LBI Resident Engagement Fund	
Junction / St Marys / Tollington	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls / Jean Kaseki	LBI Governance and Human Resources	Christmas party for older people to be held in Islington Assembly Hall. Funding will contribute towards a hot Christmas lunch, dessert and refreshments.	10-Dec-14	Older people aged 70+	Up to 100	1,500	4,000	£1,500 Arsenal in the Community, £500 Mulalley, £500 Islington United Charities	
St George's	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	LBI Greenspace	New sandpit, one of a number of play improvements to Dalmeny Park. Project includes workshops where local families can design and help build some of the new play features. Funding to pay for materials, plant and skip and labour.	17 Nov to 14 Dec 2014	Pupils of Tufnell Park School, families living close to Dalmeny Park or in St George's ward	1,000	4,000	57,000	£53,000 Section 106	

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:	£17,806
Amount allocated by VCS / Exec Committee to date:	£137,600
Balance remaining:	£200,207
New proposals for November VCS Committee:	£15,344
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2014-15:	£184,863

2014-15 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£14,822
Bunhill	£9,162
Caledonian	£6,500
Canonbury	£18,923
Clerkenwell	£6,299
Finsbury Park	£4,850
Highbury East	£19,076
Highbury West	£15,053
Hillrise	£9,567
Holloway	£9,580
Junction	£11,717
Mildmay	£13,384
St George's	£7,474
St Mary's	£5,879
St Peter's	£19,970
Tollington	£12,606
	£184,863

Notes:

Includes £4,078 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £12 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £673 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £333 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,303 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,966 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £5,432 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £870 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,580 from previous years' LIF allocations

Includes £1,559 from previous years' LIF allocations

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Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	17 November 2014		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: Islington Community Chest Grant Awards – Round Two 2014/15

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The voluntary and community sector lies at the heart of the council's ambition for a fairer Islington. In 2011 an Islington Community Fund was established to support local organisations working with the borough's diverse communities and to help them respond to the needs of vulnerable residents. Islington Community Chest is an important element of the fund and has proved over the last few years to be a very effective way of developing the activities of small grassroots organisations. 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 second 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 contributes £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 meets 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. Celebration events are held from time to time to promote awareness of Islington Community Chest.
- 3.7 The first round of Islington Community Chest for 2014/15 opened for applications in February 2014 and awards totalling £71,203 were agreed by the VCS Committee on 21 July 2014. The second round for 2014/15 opened in July 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 5 organisations.
- 3.8 28 eligible applications were received for the second round of 2014/15 funding with a total requested amount of £112,296. As part of the assessment process grants officers at Cripplegate Foundation held face-to-face meetings with applicants, offering additional support to groups where there were barriers such as language and disability. The Community Chest panel met on 24 October 2014 to consider applications submitted for the second round of funding and, after careful deliberation, agreed recommendations totalling £65,491 to 16 organisations. 31% 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, was created from amalgamating existing budgets within Environment and Regeneration and £1m of growth funding which was 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 Two 2014/15

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Community Development

4 November 2014

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report Author:

Jugjit Samra

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Appendix A

Recommended Awards For Islington Council's Community Chest 2014/15 Round Two: November 2014

Organisation	Project/Activity	Proposed Grant Award (£)
Advise and Support People		
Congolese Catholic Chaplaincy of London	Immigration and employment advice	2,500
One True Voice	Core costs of a employment and advocacy service for Somalian women	5,000
Educate People and Improve their Skills and Employability		
Angel Shed Theatre Company	Core costs of an inclusive theatre project for children and young people	4,970
Improve People's Mental and / or Physical Health		
Big Up Films	Film project with clients of Alsen Day Centre	5,000
Mildmay Community Table Tennis Club	Running costs of a Table Tennis club and training for young people	5,000
The Dynamic Autism Group	Weekend music club for young people with autism	5,000
Improve the Local Environment and Make Communities Safer		
Innercity Films	Arts and digital media project for young people on violence and criminality in their communities	5,000
Reduce Isolation and Increase People's Involvement in the Community		
Bemerton Estate Over 55's	Arts and crafts classes for older people	2,000
Friends of Hugh Myddelton Primary School	A community arts programme on Saturdays	3,000
Girdlestone 3rd Age Surgery	Art classes for older people	2,000
Hyde Village Community and Social Association (Fisher Drama Group)	Weekly drama classes for young people	5,000
Let's Dance	Weekly dance classes and a summer school for the over 60's	5,000
Olden Garden Community Project	Contribution to the salaries of two part-time garden workers	5,000
Penderyn and Trecastle TRA	Renovating plant beds on the estate	2,021
Quaker Homeless Action	Core costs for the Quaker Christmas Shelter	5,000
Wheelin' n' Dealin'	Art workshops in a residential setting	4,000
Total		65,491

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