



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 **13 July 2015 at 6:00pm.**

John Lynch
Head of Democratic Services

Enquiries to : Mary Green
Tel : (020) 7527 3005
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 1 July 2015

Membership 2015/16

Councillor Richard Watts (Chair)
Councillor Andy Hull
Councillor Asima Shaikh

Substitute Members

Councillor Janet Burgess MBE
Councillor Joe Caluori
Councillor Paul Convery
Councillor James Murray
Councillor Claudia Webbe

Observers

Councillor Theresa Debono
Councillor Rakhia Ismail
Councillor Jean-Roger Kaseki
(1 vacancy)

Quorum: is 2 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 8 June 2015	1 - 10
---	--------

B. Matters for decision	Page
1. Local Initiatives Fund	11 - 16
2. Islington Community Chest 2015/16: round one grant awards 2015/16	17 – 22

3. New discretionary rate relief awards.

23 - 28

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. 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 ordinary meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee will be held on
21 September 2015

This page is intentionally left blank

London Borough of Islington

DRAFT

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 8 June 2015

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 8 June 2015 at 6.00 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Andy Hull and Asima Shaikh

Also present: **Observers:** Rakhia Ismail and Jean-Roger Kaseki
(Councillors)

Councillor Asima Shaikh in the Chair

40 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)**
Received from Councillor Richard Watts.

41 **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)**
None.

42 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)**
None.

43 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2015 (Item A4)**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

44 **LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND (Item B1)**
A revised Appendix A was laid round.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the new proposals submitted by Ward councilors and detailed in revised Appendix A (attached to these minutes) of the report of the Executive Member for Economic and Community Development, be approved 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 organisations in receipt of Local Initiatives funding be encouraged to pay a Living Wage to their staff.

(c) That Councillors be encouraged to adhere to the deadlines for submission of proposals for Local Initiatives funding and to be pro-active in submitting proposals for funding throughout the year, in order to obviate pressures to use up funds at the end of the financial year.

Reasons for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington.

Other options considered

None

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 8 June 2015

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

The meeting ended at 6.07 pm

CHAIR

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2015

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance & Human Resources Comments
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	North London Probhati Sangha (NLPS)	Bengali New Year celebration and music and dance classes at the Hugh Cubitt Centre. Funding for music and dance classes will contribute towards venue, tutor and materials. Funding for the event will contribute towards artists, venue hire, refreshments and other associated running costs.	NY event on 24 May, 20 music and dance classes by June 2016	Open to all	250 at event, 20 at classes	1,500	3,295	Balance to be funded by NLPS	
Page 3 Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Newlon Fusion	Six week sports activities programme over the summer on the Barnsbury estate which will also develop young people as mentors and coaches for future programmes. Funding to contribute towards coaches, team leader and publicity.	20 July to 28 August 2015	Young people aged 8 to 19	25 to 30	1,500	2,550	£1,050 Newlon Fusion's activity budget	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Barnsbury Community Association	Development of a community garden on a green space beside Barnsbury Community Centre carried out by volunteers and which will include a gardening area for young children. Funding to pay for raised beds, glasshouse, refreshments, materials and equipment.	17 June to 18 Sept 2015	Local residents	15 volunteers and 100+ residents	1,500	1,500	Not applicable	
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / James Murray	Rainbows Toddlers Group (All Saints Church)	Stay and Play group for under fives. Funding to contribute towards annual rent, heating and lighting costs and toys.	Sept 2015 to Sept 2016	Children under 5 and their parents/carers	120 children and 70 adults	2,883	5,765	£2,882 Caledonian LIF tbc	
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher / Robert Khan / Claudia Webbe	St Luke's Parochial Trust	Funding for EC1 Women's Multi Cultural Group who meet monthly and which aims to welcome, befriend and support women. Funding to contribute towards sewing and cooking classes, newsletters, celebration events and room hire.	1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016	Women of different ethnicities living in south Islington	200+	1,500	6,000	£300 group members contributions tbc, £3,000 St Lukes (staff support in kind)	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2015

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance & Human Resources Comments
Bunhill	Claudia Webbe	Toffee Park Youth Project	Five day summer residential in Wales. Funding to contribute towards full board, activities, excursions,etc and pre-residential preparation sessions.	Jan to Aug 2015	Young people aged 14 to 21	12 to 15 young people	500	4,500	£1,500 raised to date, £100 donation from Vibast Centre, further fundraising to be done	
Canonbury	Alexander Diner/ Nicholas Wayne	Urban Hope	Two open access sports sessions a week at Rosemary Gardens and one session at the Almorah Road Community Centre for young people over the summer holidays. Funding to contribute towards youth worker, tennis coach, equipment and advertising.	20 July to 31 Aug 2015	Young people aged 8 to 18 from the Canonbury area	80	2,315	5,705	£1,440 FreeSport London 2015 tbc, £1,950 Urban Hope	
Clerkenwell / Finsbury Park / Tollington	Raphael Andrews / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan / Flora Williamson	Islington Refugee Forum	Costs of hiring the Islington Assembly Hall for an celebratory event as part of Islington Refugee Week. The event will showcase the fine arts of the refugee communities, share information, and provide a platform for refugee organisations to celebrate refugee contribution to the borough.	Wednesday 17 June 2015	Community groups supporting refugees and the refugee community	300	970	4,490	£3,000 LBI, £520 IRF	
Clerkenwell	Raphael Andrews / James Court / Alice Donovan	Artistry Youth Dance	Four weeks of 'Aspire' dance workshops for young people at the Old Finsbury Town Hall culminating in a performance which will also be a fundraiser for future activities. Funding to pay for choreographer and studio hire.	Dance workshops from 1 June, performance on 20 July	Young people aged 14 to 19 of a BAME background	8 dancers, 100 audience members	1,500	3,220	£1,720 in kind support (choreographer, studio hire, costumes and transport)	
Clerkenwell	Alice Donovan	Priory House Residents Association	Outings to Hendon Air Force Museum and the Shard restaurant for sheltered housing residents. Funding to contribute towards meals and transport.	25 June and 5 Aug 2015	Priory House residents aged 60 to 93 years (7 to 8 of whom are disabled)	20	800	1,110.60	£310.60 residents contributions and funds raised from raffles and summer fetes	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2015

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance & Human Resources Comments
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan	Minority Matters	Thorpe Park trip for families who cannot afford to go on holiday. Funding to contribute towards park entry tickets, lunches and coach hire.	Last week in August 2015	Children and families living in Islington	75	1,800	2,400	£500 parent contributions, £100 Minority Matters	
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh	Pooles Park Primary School	Festival in the school's garden as part of their Environmental Education Project in association with the Open Garden Squares Weekend. Funding to contribute towards entertainment and catering staff costs, environmental / horticultural specialists and other associated costs.	13 June 2015	Mostly Finsbury Park ward residents	500+	700	1,540	£200 food sales, £340 volunteers donations, £300 from school and the friends	
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan	Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Funding for food for the Mayton Street Festival 2015. A key focus of the festival is the sharing of food.	11 July 2015	All residents of Mayton Street and the surrounding streets	200	525	1,025	£225 HNG People's Health Trust funded project, £275 HNG in kind support (staff time, use of facilities)	
Highbury East	Aysegul Erdogan / Osh Gantly / Caroline Russell	Highbury Roundhouse - Sotheby Mews	Old-time music hall show in June for the 70th anniversary of World War Two. Funding to pay for entertainers, refreshments, staff and other associated costs.	Wednesday 17 June 2015	Older residents	100	1,000	1,600	£240 staff costs (in kind), £50 charge, further details to follow	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Richard Greening / Andy Hull	Highbury Hill Street Party	Annual street party for the residents of Highbury Hill and the surrounding area. Funding to contribute towards insurance, staging, equipment, entertainment, first aid, security and volunteers.	28 June 2015	Local residents	300	500	2,021	£1,011 in kind from residents (food, drink, tables and chairs)	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2015

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance & Human Resources Comments
Highbury West / St Georges / Tollington	All Highbury West and St George's councillors / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	The Toy Project	Schools Toy Recycling Project where primary schools will invite their children to bring in unwanted toys which will be donated to other individuals and organisations in need. Funding to pay for transport, publicity, postage and distribution.	July 2015	Schools, children's organisations (e.g. charities, hospitals, etc) as well as vulnerable children	1,000+	406.17	2,075.98	£1,670 LIF tbc	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Richard Greening / Andy Hull	Jannaty Women's Social Society	Annual graduation ceremony in Finspace for Arabic language students and women doing sewing and cooking classes. Funding to pay for room hire, refreshments, certificates, gifts and volunteer costs.	14 June 2015	Women, young people and children living in Islington	130	500	635	£135 through donations by students and people attending ceremony	
Hillrise	Micheline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Islington Mind	Funding for the costs of a lesbian only event and equipment and material for an arts programme for LGBT service users.	Event between July and Sept 2015, materials to be bought asap	LGBT people	20 to 30 (event), 20 to 35 (arts programme)	1,139.73	1,139.73	Not applicable	
Hillrise	Micheline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Hillrise ward consortia led by Caxton House Community Centre	A summer festival which will be led and organised by a number of local groups. Funding to pay for event insurance, St John's Ambulance and costs of completing application for use of adjacent park area.	15 August 2015	Local residents	300 to 400	1,500	6,515	£4,000 LIF awarded in March 2015, £865 from Caxton House (in kind room hire), £150 from HLECA (in kind equipment hire)	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2015

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance & Human Resources Comments
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls	Pemberton Gardens Street Party 2015	Pemberton Gardens Street Party 2015. Funding to pay for pony rides, DJ, bouncy castle and sundries.	6 June 2015	Pemberton Gardens residents and St Johns Church congregation	300+	500	1,000	£400 St John's Church, Upper Holloway tbc	
Page 7 Junction / Tollington	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls / Jean Kaseki / Flora Williamson	Whittington Park Community Association	Big Day Out 2015 in Whittington Park, a summer festival which is part of the Holloway Arts Festival. Event will include a range of activities and entertainment, workshops and stalls. Funding will contribute towards staging, publicity, entertainment, staff costs, equipment and other associated running costs.	13 June 2015	All members of the local community as well as local groups	Up to 1,500	1,250	4,580	£500 Drivers & Norris, £275 café, £350 stalls, £100 face painting, £1,850 in kind support, £500 LIF tbc	
Junction / St George's	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Tim Nicholls / Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	Rowan Arts	Costs of an outreach coordinator and volunteers who will benefit from training opportunities and promote the Tufnell Park Life website to local residents. The website aims to encourage local people to feel part of a community using a digital platform to promote networking and information sharing.	March 2015 to Dec 2015	Local residents	200 to 300 +	1,550	3,650	£2,100 LIF awarded in Mar 2015	
Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay / Ollie Parker	The Asian Elderly Luncheon and Social Club	Hire of a 32 seater coach for a day trip to Clacton On Sea.	25 July 2015	Asian older people (including disabled and partially sighted)	30	500	500	Not applicable	
St George's	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	The Zone Youth Project	Tackling anti-social behaviour by setting up a internet café and homework club which will take place three times a week. Funding to contribute towards the purchase of two computers, a printer and software.	April to July 2015	Mainly young people aged 11 to 19 attending Holloway Secondary School	50+	108.53	982.98	£874.45 LIF allocated in March 2015	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JUNE 2015

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance & Human Resources Comments
St George's	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	Willow Children's Centre	Funding for the purchase of two ipads and the associated software to allow parents to access information about their children's progress and to allow children to document their own learning.	Mar to Dec 2015	Under 5s and parents	150+	1,000	8,000	£7,000 Willow Children's Centre	
St George's	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	Bardolph Road Street Party	Annual street party on Bardolph Road. Funding to pay for refreshments, bouncy castle, tables, entertainment and printing.	12 July 2015	Local residents	100 to 200	450	450	Not applicable	
St George's	Kat Fletcher / Satnam Gill / Nick Ward	Crayford Road Gardeners	Annual Street Party. Funding to contribute towards costs of petting farm, food, bouncy castle, face painting and printing.	4 July 2015	Local residents	100 to 150	500	1,500	Further funding tbc from Partners for Islington and Circle 33	
Page 3 St Peter's	Alice Perry / Gary Doolan / Martin Klute	Packington Children's Centre	Weekly planting sessions for local families who will construct and maintain raised beds in Union Square Park and for a cook and eat course which will use the produce harvested. Funding to pay for materials, equipment, soil, plants and food for the cook and eat group.	1 June 2015 to 15 Jan 2016	Families with children under five in Packington / Canonbury area	30 families	600	600	Not applicable	
St Peter's	Alice Perry / Gary Doolan / Martin Klute	Islington Boat Club	Five week programme of summer sports activities which includes various watersports as well as martial arts, yoga and mountain biking. The programme ends with a week long residential for ten young people. Funding to contribute towards cost of coaches / instructors.	20 July to 4 Sept 2015	Young people aged 14 to 19 from Islington	300+	2,000	26,250	£7,741 LBI Summerversity, £1,000 St James Place Foundation, £5,990 BBC Children in Need, £9,519 Arsenal & Cayo Foundations & Livery companies tbc	

Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining

Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2015-16:	£240,000
Total allocations to be made from previous years' budgets:	£7,519
Balance remaining:	£247,519
New proposals for June VCS Committee:	£31,497
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2015-16:	£216,022

2015-16 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£7,617
Bunhill	£13,000
Caledonian	£15,000
Canonbury	£13,380
Clerkenwell	£14,378
Finsbury Park	£12,525
Highbury East	£14,160
Highbury West	£14,819
Hillrise	£13,360
Holloway	£15,000
Junction	£13,936
Mildmay	£15,500
St George's	£11,946
St Mary's	£15,000
St Peter's	£12,400
Tollington	£13,999
	£216,022

Notes:

- Includes £695 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,878 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,000 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £160 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,000 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,000 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £786 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,000 from previous years' LIF allocations

This page is intentionally left blank



Report of: Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	13 th July 2015		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
-----------------------	--	------------

SUBJECT: LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Local Initiatives Fund is a flexible devolved budget for councillors to use to address issues and priorities in their wards. It is an important element of the council's community provision and helps to meet the needs of local residents. In 2015/16 each ward has an allocation of £15,000 to spend on local schemes. Councillors consider project ideas for their ward and make recommendations to the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee. This report asks the committee to approve the proposals submitted by ward councillors for this financial year.

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 (Governance and Human Resources) being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 2.2 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 (Governance and Human Resources) 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 (Governance and Human Resources) being satisfied the necessary paperwork has been approved, that the necessary checks have been made and other issues resolved. The Executive Member for Economic and Community Development would be informed of all events agreed under delegated authority.
- 2.3 To note the amendments to ward budgets resulting from project funding being returned, as listed in the budget summary on the last page of Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2011 the council 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 1 April 2011 new ward partnership arrangements were introduced in place of the previous area committees.

- 3.2 Simultaneously a report relating to the Islington Community Fund was agreed by Executive. This included a proposal to create a Local Initiatives Fund with each ward having an allocation of £20,000 per year to spend on local projects.
- 3.3 In February 2015, the Executive agreed that the Local Initiatives Fund budget be reduced to £15,000 per ward (£240,000 total).
- 3.4 The Local Initiatives Fund enables councillors to respond directly to priorities in their ward that lie outside of current mainstream funding programmes and might not otherwise receive funding. It helps them to address the needs of local residents and suggest improvements to local services/facilities or new schemes that will enhance the area.
- 3.5 At Executive in March 2011 it was agreed that a Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Committee of the Executive should be set up to oversee the council's engagement with the voluntary and community sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of council resources to the sector.
- 3.6 The VCS Committee's terms of reference 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'.
- 3.7 The committee agreed that each ward councillor should be given a notional allocation of the Local Initiatives Fund (i.e. divided equally between the councillors elected for each ward). In 2015/16 £15,000 is available to each ward; therefore the notional allocation for each councillor is £5,000. In September 2014 the VCS Committee agreed to introduce a minimum award of £250 per project.
- 3.8 The Democratic Services team in the Chief Executive's department is responsible for managing the Local Initiatives Fund in liaison with ward councillors and members of the VCS Committee. The team ensures that funds are used appropriately and for the purpose for which they are allocated.
- 3.9 The second tranche of proposals submitted by ward councillors for this financial year is set out in Appendix A. It is recommended that these proposals are agreed in principle subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Human Resources) being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 3.10 Occasionally projects do not proceed as planned and funding is returned to ward budgets. These amendments are listed in the budget summary on the last page of Appendix A.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial implications:

The proposals referred to in this report will be met from budget allocations for the Local Initiatives Fund.

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 resources through the Local Initiatives Fund is likely to promote the social and economic well being of Islington's residents.

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 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 and when considering proposals the VCS Committee will take relevant equalities implications into account. The Local Initiatives Fund provides resources for local projects which directly meet the needs of local residents, many of whom are from groups with protected characteristics. It enables some of Islington's poorest communities to access community-based services and activities and allows provision to be developed locally which can reach groups of residents that may not otherwise be supported.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Local Initiatives Fund is an effective way of addressing local priorities and provides a mechanism for ward councillors to support small projects which might otherwise not be funded. Proposals submitted for approval represent a wide range of activity and will deliver significant benefit to local communities. Agreeing to carry forward small residual amounts of funding to next year's budget will help to ensure a more efficient allocation of resources.

Appendices

Appendix A – Local Initiatives Fund Proposals

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Executive Member for Economic and Community Development 1 July 2015

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services 1 July 2015

Report Author: John Lynch, Head of Democratic Services
Tel: 020 7527 3002
Email: john.lynch@islington.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN JULY 2015

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Governance & Human Resources Comments
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher	The Toy Project	Schools Toy Recycling Project where primary schools will invite their children to bring in unwanted toys which will be donated to other individuals and organisations in need. Funding to pay for transport, publicity, postage and distribution.	July 2015	Schools, children's organisations (e.g. charities, hospitals, etc) as well as vulnerable children	1,000+	180.52	2,075.98	£406 LIF awarded at June 2015 VCS Cttee (Tollington, High West & St Georges), £361 further LIF tbc	
Clerkenwell / Highbury East / Highbury West / Hillrise / Junction / Mildmay / St Georges / St Marys / St Peters / Tollington	All councillors of Highbury West, Hillrise, Junction, Mildmay, St Georges, St Marys and Tollington wards / Alice Donovan / Caroline Russell / Osh Gantly / Gary Doolan	Islington Play Association	Playday event in Paradise Park. Funding to contribute towards transport, equipment and resources, sound equipment, refreshments and publicity.	Wed 5 Aug 2015	Children and families from across the borough	1,000+ children	2,500	6,925	£700 LBI Greenspace, £1,425 IPA (staffing and fruit for all), £2,300 LIF tbc	
St Peters	Osh Gantly / Alice Perry / Gary Doolan / Martin Klute	Hoppers	A week's holiday in Kent for low income families. Funding to contribute towards staffing costs, rent, catering and sundries, outings / activities and transport.	17 to 23 August 2015	Single parents with children living on low incomes	23	661	6,950	£500 Smithfield business, £1,040 Hoppers in kind, £345 income from families tbc, £4,404 LIF tbc	

Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining

Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2015-16:	£240,000
Total allocations to be made from previous years' budgets:	£11,696
Amount allocated by VCS Committee to date:	£31,497
Balance remaining:	£220,198
New proposals for July VCS Committee (as at 23 June 2015):	£3,342
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2015-16:	£216,857

2015-16 Balance remaining by ward:

Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£7,617
Bunhill	£12,819
Caledonian	£15,000
Canonbury	£13,380
Clerkenwell	£14,278
Finsbury Park	£12,525
Highbury East	£13,960
Highbury West	£14,519
Hillrise	£13,060
Holloway	£15,000
Junction	£13,636
Mildmay	£19,377
St George's	£11,646
St Mary's	£14,700
St Peter's	£11,639
Tollington	£13,699

£216,857**Notes:**

- Includes £695 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,878 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,000 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £160 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,000 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £1,000 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £786 from previous years' LIF allocations
- Includes £5,177 from previous years' LIF allocations



Report of: Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	13 July 2015		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
-----------------------	--	------------

SUBJECT: Islington Council's Community Chest: Round One Grant Awards 2015/16

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 Small voluntary and community organisations play an important role in Islington, helping to build community resilience and supporting residents who are experiencing poverty and isolation. Islington Council's Community Chest, one of the borough's most popular grant programmes, has proved to be a very effective way of funding grassroots activity and developing the capacity of local groups.
- 1.2 This report sets out recommendations for awarding the first tranche of Islington Council's Community Chest funding for 2015/16.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To agree the proposed grant awards for the first round of Islington Council's Community Chest for 2015/16 as set out in Appendix A.

3. Background

- 3.1 Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC) is a partnership between Islington Council and Cripplegate Foundation. It is a small grants programme that funds grassroots activity and brings additional capacity building, networking and development support to local voluntary and community organisations. By providing resources for local groups ICCC helps to build community resilience and to tackle poverty and isolation.
- 3.2 ICCC is available to local organisations with a turnover of no more than £100,000 per year – in most cases less than £50,000 per year. Organisations can apply for one grant of up to £5,000 per year. 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 Community chest programmes in Islington have been successfully managed by Cripplegate Foundation for many years. Under current arrangements, agreed by VCS Committee in March 2015, the council contributes £200,000 per year and Cripplegate Foundation adds £50,000 per year (from which £36,000 per year is deducted to cover the costs of administering and developing the programme).
- 3.4 In addition Cripplegate Foundation has committed up to £2,500 a year towards the costs of holding an annual celebration event to promote the achievements and impact of activity supported through ICCC. This year's event was held in Islington Assembly Hall on 10 June 2015. Well over 100 people attended the celebration and enjoyed a range of excellent performances from community chest beneficiaries as well as an opportunity to network and learn more about projects supported by community chest.
- 3.5 A panel made up of representatives from Islington Council, Cripplegate Foundation and the local voluntary sector (nominated by Islington Community Network) meets three times a year to consider applications and to make recommendations to the VCS Committee. It is chaired by the council's Executive Member for Economic and Community Development.
- 3.6 The panel also considers issues of wider relevance to the local voluntary and community sector and reviews priorities annually to ensure that the programme continues to meet the needs of Islington's most vulnerable and isolated residents. In addition panellists track application trends and identify any gaps in the programme that should be addressed.

Round One Grant Awards 2015/16

- 3.7 The first round of ICCC for 2015/16 opened for applications in March 2015. It was widely advertised to local groups through voluntary sector networks and forums and on the Islington Council and Cripplegate Foundation websites. Information sessions were arranged for organisations thinking of applying.
- 3.8 31 eligible applications were received including three deferred from a previous round, with a total requested amount of £143,229. 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. In this round applicants were provided with information about Islington Giving Week, Voluntary Action Islington and Big Lunch Extras.
- 3.9 The ICCC panel met on 23 June 2015 to consider applications and, after careful deliberation, agreed recommendations totalling £80,009 to 18 organisations. 28% of recommended applicants have not previously received funding from ICCC. 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 council's contribution of £200,000 per year referred to in this report will be met from existing budgets allocated to ICCC in the Chief Executive's Department.

4.2 Legal Implications:

The council has power to provide grants for the voluntary and community sector under the General Power of Competence set out in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The provision of grants for the voluntary and community sector as described in this report is not subject to any other statutory provision. In providing these grants the council must ensure that it complies with its duty to secure best value (Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999).

4.3 Environmental Implications:

One of the priorities of ICCC is 'improving the local environment and making communities safer'. Funding proposals in this report support grassroots community activity which will have a positive impact on the local environment.

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.

ICCC provides resources for small community organisations, many of which are volunteer-led and wouldn't meet the criteria for funding under other programmes. It enables some of Islington's poorest residents to access community-based services and activities including through newly established groups who offer the potential for adding to existing provision locally or who can reach communities that may not otherwise be supported. Analysis of previous grants demonstrates ICCC's success at meeting the needs of groups with protected characteristics, for example people from black and minority ethnic and refugee backgrounds, young people and older people, women, and people with disabilities.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The recommendations in this report will help to nurture and sustain an innovative and resilient voluntary and community sector in Islington, in particular providing resources for smaller organisations that find it hard to access funding from other programmes. Islington Council's Community Chest is an effective way of developing grass roots activity across the borough and building capacity in local organisations to support residents who are experiencing poverty and isolation.

Appendices

Appendix A – Recommended Grant Awards for ICCC: Round One 2015/16

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Executive Member for Economic and Community Development 29 June 2015

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report Author: Jugjit Samra, VCS Development Officer
Tel: 020 7527 3442
Email: jugjit.samra@islington.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

APPENDIX A

Recommended Awards For Islington Council's Community Chest - 2015/16 Round One: July 2015

Organisation	Project/Activity	Proposed Grant Award (£)
Advise and Support People		
Betknowmore UK	Delivery of gambling awareness raising workshops and events	5,000
Community Language Support Services	Outreach advice and support for BAMER communities	5,000
Eritrean Community in the UK (ECUK)	Advice and support services for the Eritrean community in Islington	5,000
Educate People and Improve their Skills and Employability		
F.L.A.M.E Young Theatre Players	Weekly dance sessions	5,000
Kurdish Children & Youth Centre	A Kurdish mother tongue supplementary school and homework club	5,000
Mosaada Centre for Single Women	Personal development workshops for single BAMER women	5,000
Speak Street	Pop up language cafes in a range of Islington venues	5,000
Improve People's Mental and / or Physical Health		
Art Therapy 4 All	Art therapy service for residents at Cheverton Lodge Care Home	4,650
Islington South Community Counselling	1:1 counselling	2,940
Improve the Local Environment and Make Communities Safer		
Angel Canal Festival	The 29th Angel Canal Festival	5,000
Choices	Peer mentoring and training programme for young people	4,200
The Kindness Offensive a project of the Starting Out charity	Creation of a learning and sensory garden outside The Kindness Offensive headquarters	4,910
Ben Kinsella Trust	The Ben Kinsella Exhibition	1,500
Reduce Isolation and Increase People's Involvement in the Community		
Artbox	Art workshops for adults with learning disabilities	5,000
Music for People	Tea dances, sing-a-longs and concerts for older people	5,000
Project One Zero	Inclusive art workshops for the local community, primarily residents of the Bemerton Estate	4,809
St Luke's Community History Group	Fortnightly community history group	3,000
Talking News Islington (TNI)	A talking newspaper for blind and partially-sighted Islington residents	4,000
Total		£80,009

This page is intentionally left blank



Report of: Executive Member for Economic and Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	13 July 2015		All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt	

SUBJECT: New Discretionary Rate Relief Awards

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 In January 2015, VCS Committee agreed all of the Council's current discretionary rate relief (DRR) awards to local organisations for five years (1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020).
- 1.2 This report asks VCS Committee to consider new applications for DRR received since January 2015.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree DRR to B2B Create; Minority Matters; Stuart Low Trust and Wu Shi Taiji Quan & Qi Gong Association to 31 March 2020, backdated to when they moved into their premises.
- 2.2 To reject the applications from the British Red Cross Society and Iften Academy Ltd which do not meet the Council's criteria for DRR.

3. Background

- 3.1 Registered charities and not for profit organisations benefit from relief from non-domestic rates in two ways:

a) Mandatory Relief

This is given automatically if they are registered charities. They receive 80% rate relief which is entirely funded by central government, at no cost to the council.

b) Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR)

Local authorities also have discretionary powers to grant DRR to non-profit making organisations to either:

- a) top-up the remaining 20% of the rates bill of a registered charity getting mandatory rate relief or
- b) pay up to 100% of the rates of a non-profit making organisation that isn't a registered charity and therefore not eligible for 80% mandatory rate relief.

4. Criteria

- 4.1 The criteria for DRR (Appendix A) was agreed by VCS Committee in 2011. This prioritises local voluntary organisations providing services to residents - which excludes the head offices of national and international charities based in the borough. The cost of a DRR award balanced against the amount of local benefit is also considered.

5. Funding Discretionary Rate Relief

- 5.1 Discretionary rate relief is a cost effective way for the Council to support local voluntary organisations as it only bears 30% of the cost of an award. The remaining 70% is funded by central government (50%) and the GLA (20%).
- 5.2 Current DRR awards total £963,698 and the cost to the Council is £289,109. However, the final annual cost will be higher as some organisations awarded DRR are still waiting for a rateable value for their premises to be set and have not had to pay any rates so far.
- 5.3 The Council's budget to fund DRR is £320,000. The cost of all current awards and the new applications recommended for approval in this report can be met from this budget.

6. New Applications

- 6.1 Six organisations have applied since January 2015. The four listed below meet the criteria.

6.2 Recommended for DRR

Organisation	Address	Activities	DRR (cost to Council)
B2B Create	Rooms 5 – 7, The Exchange, Watkinson Road, N7	Local charity developing the capacity, skills and integration of the Somali community, through arts and education.	£96
Minority Matters	51 Corker Walk Andover Estate, N7	Range of support services, particularly for children and young people and their parents living on the Andover Estate.	£52
Stuart Low Trust	Office 3, Claremont Centre, 24-27 White Lion Street, N1	Local mental health charity. Funded by Islington Council.	£105
Wu Shi Taiji Quan & Qi Gong Assoc	Ground Floor 20 Blackstock Road, N4	Classes for local people to improve health and well-being.	£510
TOTAL RECOMMENDED			£763

- 6.3 The applications received from the following do not meet the criteria and are not recommended for a DRR award:

Not Recommended for DRR

Organisation	Address	Activities	DRR (cost to Council)
British Red Cross Society	Aztec Row, Berners Road, N1	Office for the property department of the British Red Cross. Not locally focussed. Receives 80% mandatory rate relief.	£14,785
Iftin Training Academy Ltd	195 Seven Sisters Road (ground floor) London N4 3NG	New private company with no plans to register as a charity. Wants to run classes to help with language and other skills. Has no staff or volunteers at the moment. Receives small business rate relief (£676).	£1,468

7. Current DRR Budget

- 7.1 The additional cost to the Council for DRR awards to the organisations set out in 6.2 would be £763 which can be met from within the Council's £320,000 capped DRR budget.

8. Implications

8.1 Financial Implications:

The current annual budget for Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) is £320k and the four additional reliefs to be granted will be funded through this existing budget.

8.2 Legal Implications:

Section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 confers discretion on local billing authorities to grant discretionary rate relief from all or part of the amount of non-domestic rates payable to registered charities and certain non-profit making organisations. Authorities have discretion to award up to 100% relief to non-profit making bodies and can grant up to 20% relief by way of top-up to charities bodies in receipt of the 80% mandatory relief.

The Council may grant rate relief for a fixed period of time. The Non-Domestic Rating (Discretionary Relief) Regulations 1989 require the council to give notice to the ratepayer stating the start date and end date of the period in respect of which relief is given.

In deciding whether or not to grant rate relief to applicants, the council should consider carefully each application on its merits taking into account its Criteria for Awarding Discretionary Rate Relief as set out in Appendix A.

Following the introduction of the Business Rate Retention Scheme, the cost of funding discretionary relief granted on or after 1 April 2013 is met equally by local authorities and Central Government. The Council bears 30% of the cost of relief and the Greater London Authority 20% as it is entitled to receive 20% of the business rates collected by the council

The Council is required to give 12 months' notice of the withdrawal of relief.

8.3 Environmental Implications:

None.

8.4 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.

Organisations recommended for DRR are particularly focussed on serving poor and vulnerable residents and those with protected characteristics. Many groups are based on council housing estates or located in deprived neighbourhoods. The criteria for DRR were drawn up specifically to support organisations serving the most disadvantaged sections of our community.

9. Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 9.1 All DRR applications received have been assessed against the criteria already agreed by VCS Committee. The four organisations recommended for DRR awards fit the criteria and, if approved, DRR awards will be to 31 March 2020.

Appendices

Appendix A – DRR Criteria

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Executive Member for Economic and Community Development 29 June 2015

Received by:

Head of Democratic Services

Date

Report Author: Cedric D'Amico
Tel: 020 7527 3178
Email: cedric.d'amico@islington.gov.uk

DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF CRITERIA

Each case will be considered on its own merits with priority given to efficient and well managed organisations that:

- primarily benefit Islington residents
- demonstrate a link with council priorities and promote a fairer Islington
- relieve the council of providing certain facilities or services
- serve the needs of poorer and excluded sections of the local community
- provide services for and in the borough's most deprived neighbourhoods
- maximise the use of their premises for community benefit
- serve equalities groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

Priority will also be given to:

- local organisations that are funded by the council through grant-aid or service contract
- local organisations that have a governing body whose membership mainly consists of people who live and/or work in Islington or have a strong connection with the borough
- organisations reliant on volunteers to carry out their activities
- self-help groups with few sources of funding to carry out their activities

Other Considerations

- the financial cost to the council incurred in awarding relief
- the organisation's ability to pay its rates
- the amount of central government funding levered in by a discretionary rate relief award to deliver statutory or other council services

Not Eligible for Discretionary Rate Relief

Islington Council will not normally award discretionary rate relief to:

- Profit making organisations
- Empty properties
- Charity shops
- Private schools, colleges, nurseries or schools that are not within the Islington family of schools
- National charity headquarters
- Housing Associations (other than for community centres)
- Car parking spaces
- Buildings exclusively used for worship

Award Limits

The following limits to awards will apply (cost to the council of discretionary rate relief):

Up to £6,000 Organisations will normally be awarded 100% discretionary rate relief

Over £6,000 Awards will be proportionate to the level of local benefit which may be less than 100% discretionary rate relief

This page is intentionally left blank