



**Resources Department
Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD**

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 **3 February 2020 at 6:30pm.**

Enquiries to : Mary Green
Tel : (020) 7527 3005
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 23 January 2020

Membership 2019/20

Councillor Richard Watts (Chair)
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz
Councillor Una O'Halloran
Councillor Diarmaid Ward

Substitute Members

Councillor Janet Burgess MBE
Councillor Andy Hull
Councillor Asima Shaikh
Councillor Rowena Champion

Observers

Councillor Mouna Hamitouche MBE
Councillor Anjna Khurana
Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo

Quorum: is 2 Councillors



A. Formal matters

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 previous meeting 1 - 4

B. Matters for decision

1. Local Initiatives Fund awards 5 - 14
2. Discretionary rate relief 15 - 34

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)

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 ordinary meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is scheduled for 31 March 2020

This page is intentionally left blank

London Borough of Islington

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 4 November 2019

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 4 November 2019 at 6.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Una O'Halloran, Diarmaid Ward and Richard Watts
Councillor Michelline Safi-Ngongo
Observer:

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

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

Received from Councillor Anjna Khurana.

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

None.

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

None.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

61 **LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)**

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Head of Communities be authorised to allocate funding of up to £250 to activity to support Ward Partnership meetings, as detailed in paragraph 3.14 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, which will be reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

(b) That the proposals for funding under the Local Initiatives Fund and the changes to previous proposals, detailed in Appendix A (attached to these minutes) of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be approved, subject to the Corporate Director of Housing being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

(c) That the declarations of interest made by councillors, detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the report, be noted.

(d) That the amendments to Ward budgets resulting for project funding being returned, as detailed in paragraph 3.13 of the report and Appendix A of the report, be noted.

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.

62 **COMMUNITY FESTIVALS FUND: PROPOSAL FOR REVIEW TO A THREE-YEAR SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME (Item B2)**

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Community Festivals Fund be changed to a small grants programme where applicants are commissioned by open competition on a three-year basis, subject to the budget being available year by year.

(b) That the revised eligibility and funding criteria that applicants seeking Community Festival Fund support are required to meet, the terms and conditions of the grant, including reporting annually on how the grant has been spent, as well as satisfactory confirmation of match funding annually, all as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be approved.

(c) That the new grant agreement offer letter, the terms and conditions and payment schedule, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

Reasons for decision

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

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None.

63 **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAMME 2020-2024 (Item B3)**

In her introduction to the report, Councillor O'Halloran highlighted an amendment to page 65 as follows:

page 65 – Date for Launch of the grants programme amended to read "06 January 2020"

Closing date for applications: date amended to read "15 March 2020"

RESOLVED:

(a) That the Council's Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme be developed to enable consultation and co-production of the

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 4 November 2019

programme with key stakeholders, including elected members, Council departments, Islington Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Voluntary and Community Sector partners.

(b) That the outline timetable for the development and delivery of the 2020 – 24 grants programme, detailed in Appendix 1 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be approved.

(c) That explorative work be undertaken with Islington CCG, Islington Primary Care Networks and the Islington GP Federation, to assess the feasibility of establishing a joint approach to funding navigation, sign-posting and social prescribing services in the Borough.

(d) That an extension be approved to the current programme in line with the timetable detailed in Appendix 1 (as amended) of the report and that letters be sent to current grant recipients notifying them of the extension

Reasons for decision

The current grants programme was due to end on 31 March 2020 and work was required to reframe the programme in relation to the Corporate Plan 2018-2022 and the Council's ambitions for early intervention and prevention.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

CHAIR

This page is intentionally left blank



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	3 rd February 2020		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 2019/20 each ward has an allocation of £14,000 to spend on local schemes, with the exception of Bunhill and Clerkenwell who each have an allocation of £14,500. 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 and changes to previous proposals submitted by ward councillors as set out in Appendix A and to agree these proposals in principle subject to the Corporate Director of Housing being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 2.2 To note the declarations of interest made by councillors due to having a connection with organisations that they are recommending funding for. These are detailed at paragraph 3.12.

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 2016/17 £15,000 was available to each ward; therefore the notional allocation for each councillor was £5,000.
- 3.8 In September 2014 the VCS Committee agreed to introduce a minimum award of £250 per project. In October 2018 the VCS Committee agreed that a minimum amount of £50 per ward be requested by organisations submitting proposals to more than one ward.

In November 2019 authority was delegated to the Head of Communities, to allocate funding, up to the value of £250, to activity to support Ward Partnership meetings. Awards approved under delegated authority should be reported to the next VCS Committee at which Local Initiatives Fund awards are considered.

- 3.9 In January 2017, the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee agreed that in order to address the issue of recruiting and retaining support for ward partnerships, an incentive payment of £1,000 per annum would be paid to each ward partnership co-ordinator and that £1,000 per annum be set aside from each ward partnership Local Initiatives Fund budget to fund this support.

In 2019/20, the annual Local Initiatives Fund budget is therefore £225,000. This is £14,000 per ward apart from the Bunhill and Clerkenwell ward budgets which are each £14,500.

- 3.10 The Voluntary and Community Sector Development Team in the Housing 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.
- 3.11 The third 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 Corporate Director of Housing being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 3.12 Councillors must always declare their interest if they have a connection with an organisation that they are recommending funding for.

Declarations of interest have been made for the following applications submitted to this Committee:

- Cllr Marian Spall is the Vice Chair of Elthorne Pride (who are applying on behalf of Elthorne Circle of Friends) which has been allocated £500 for inter-generational pop up befriending events.
- Cllr Theresa Debono is a trustee of Islington Foodbank which has been allocated £2,000 for the hire of storage space and a garage as well as garage repairs.
- Cllr Tricia Clarke and Cllr Satnam Gill are trustees of Hilldrop Area Community Association which has been allocated £750 for a programme to tackle food poverty.
- Cllr Vivien Cutler has an advisory role in the St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group which has been allocated £4,800 for a summer holiday programme.

- Cllr Anjna Khurana, Cllr Flora Williamson and Cllr Richard Watts have declared a personal and non-pecuniary interest in the £2,000 award to Hanley Crouch Community Association as they form the Tollington ward partnership, which is hosting the event that the award is funding.
- Cllr Anjna Khurana is a trustee of Hanley Crouch Community Association which has been allocated £2,000 for a Tollington ward partnership community fun day.

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:

Many of the funded projects have environmental implications that include carbon emissions. Most involve providing food and drink, using energy in buildings, or using resources in the form of purchasing equipment or consumables, and will also generate waste in some form. One is a minor construction project that will use materials and energy. Almost all involve travel by the organisers or attendees, which has the potential to increase local emissions and congestion.

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

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.

Appendices

Appendix A – Local Initiatives Fund Proposals

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

21 January 2020



Una O'Halloran
Executive Member for Community Development

Report Author: Patricia Keating, Ward Budget and Partnerships Officer
Tel: 020 7527 8325
Email: patricia.keating@islington.gov.uk

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY 2020

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Claudia Webbe	Friends of Fortune Street Park	The 17th annual Community Fun Day in Fortune Street Park. Funding to pay for a pottery workshop, table football, a soft play area, a magician, a stilt walker, balloon artists, table and chair hire and other associated costs.	Fortune Street Park	Expected to be a Saturday in late June 2020	Mostly Bunhill residents, some from Golden Lane and Barbican Estates	500 Bunhill residents	2,000	5,000	£2,241 FoFSP, £467 tbc stalls takings, £292 tbc donations from local businesses	
Page 9											
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran	Islington Play Association	The 2020 Cally Festival, an annual large-scale community event on the Caledonian Road, now in its 10th year. A programme of community engagement activities will be held in the run up to the festival targeting especially children and young people (involving four primary schools, Copenhagen Youth Project, Help on Your Doorstep and around 20 other community and voluntary organisations). Funding is requested for preparatory engagement and core funding of the festival.	A 400 metre section of Caledonian Road from the junctions of Richmond Avenue to Offord Road	Community engagement activities with children and young people from Feb /March onwards, festival on 21st June 2020 (tbc)	Mainly residents of Caledonian, Barnsbury, St Mary's and Holloway wards	6,000 Islington residents	6,496	55,500	£20,000 LBI S106 and CIL, £4,500 market income, £20,000 tbc sponsors, £2,500 tbc LBI Housing, £2,000 tbc LBI Community Festivals Fund	
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran	Coney	We The People (of Caledonian Road) - a three phase community development / community cohesion project, comprising a research and development phase, workshops in making play in public spaces and a multiple choice quiz on local stories and issues. Funding to pay for the fees of two facilitators, venue hire for the two workshops, marketing materials and materials / equipment.	In neutral places, to be confirmed - community centres, pubs or similar	February to April 2020 (two workshops in March)	Local residents	70 from Islington	1,400	2,335	£935 Coney in kind (covered by core funding from Arts Council England)	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY 2020

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Canonbury / St Peters	Nick Wayne / Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler	Friends of Rotherfield School (FoR)	Three educational, cultural and fun activities to enable over 400 children, their parents and carers to thrive, to bring the community together and to build the sustainability of the Friends of Rotherfield PTA: a 'Gaspard the Fox' show, a 'Fun Run' and a 'Food and Culture evening'. Funding to pay for Gaspard show (fees, materials and travel for the three performers), the fun run (balloon arch and medals) and the evening event (food, drink, napkins, cutlery, etc).	Rotherfield Primary School and Rosemary Gardens (or Shoreditch Park) for Fun Run	March to July 2020	350 children and 95 adults (mostly from Canonbury and St Peters wards)	445 in total (370 Islington residents)	1,374	1,374	Not applicable	
			Annual outing to Southend in July for local families who otherwise would not have an opportunity to get out of London during the summer. Funding to contribute towards the hire of coaches, the purchase of wristbands for Adventure Island / Theme Park and additional staff costs to administer the programme.	Southend on Sea	Late July 2020 - exact date to be confirmed	Targetted at local families and older people	220	2,000	5,400	£2,000 tbc income from ticket sales, £1,400 tbc Fins Pk LIF in 2020-21	
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan	LBI Homes and Communities (Finsbury Park Community Hub)		London Islamic Cultural Society, 389 to 395 Wightman Road, N8 ONA	19 April 2020	Mainly BME women and girls	120 to 150	500	500	Not applicable	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY 2020

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Highbury West	Roulin Khondoker / Andy Hull	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust	Funding for three women only fitness classes per week for 9 months (two mornings and one evening every week). Funding to contribute towards the cost of an Access to Sports coach, marketing, admin and management.	Elizabeth House Community Centre, 2 Hurlock Street	Three sessions per week from March to December 2020	Local women, primarily from BME backgrounds	70+ over a year	910	4,300	£660 tbc LBI Communities Team funding, £2,730 tbc Gunners Fund	
Highbury West	Theresa Debono	Islington Foodbank	Contribution towards annual running costs of the Foodbank which provides three-day emergency food supplies for people in crisis (who are referred to them). Funding to pay for rental of storage space and a garage as well as garage repairs.	Highbury Roundhouse Community Centre, 71 Ronalds Road, N5 1XB	March 2020 to February 2021 (open two afternoons per week)	Those who need extra help with food supplies	6,000	2,000	2,000	Not applicable	
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Elthorne Pride on behalf of Elthorne Circle of Friends	Five inter-generational pop up befriending events with a focus on older people, consisting of three pop up cinema screenings / sing-a-longs, a workshop and a community lunch. Funding to contribute towards workshop tutor, materials, refreshments, a projectionist, room hire, marketing and volunteer expenses.	Main pop up cinemas at Caxton House, other events in other Hillrise locations	January to June 2020	Older people, especially male residents	100 (80 from Hillrise)	500	2,095	£400 Elthorne Pride (marketing, distribution, project management)	The amount requested is £1,695.
Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Santiago Bell-Bradford	Sports and Life Skills CIC	April half term multi sports programme offering three sessions per day, one session for 4-7 year olds, another for 8-13 year olds and another for female only 4-14 year olds. Funding to pay for a lead coach, two assistant coaches and medals for participants.	Mayville Astro Turf Football Pitch	7 to 16 April 2020	Young people	45 young people and 45 parents from Islington	2,000	2,000	Not applicable	

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY 2020

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Santiago Bell-Bradford	KMEWO (Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation)	10 weekly ESOL classes, 2 ICT / Employability courses (each 8 weeks long) and 2 advice sessions on domestic abuse and FGM. Funding to pay for tutor costs, a project co-ordinator and room hire.	IMECE Women's Centre and Minik Kardes Children's Centre	March to December 2020	Mainly Kurdish and Middle Eastern women	20 Islington residents (15 from Mildmay)	3,066	3,526	£460 in kind KMEWO	
St Georges	Satnam Gill / Tricia Clarke / Gulcin Ozdemir	Hilldrop Area Community Association	Part of a programme to tackle food poverty which is delivering lunch club sessions and meals for children attending the After School Club as well as two six week courses where families will learn about healthy diets, cooking on a budget and preparing a meal. Funding to pay for one six week course for local families (trainer costs, shopping list items and large kitchen items).	Hilldrop Community Centre	Six week courses before the Easter holidays	Local families	12 per 6 week course (4 local families per course)	750	4,430	£3.330 LHC Community Benefit fund, £250 tbc Families for Life	
St Georges	Satnam Gill / Tricia Clarke / Gulcin Ozdemir	St George and All Saints Church	Introduction of a dropped kerb in the car park to improve access to the church for people with disabilities, wheelchairs, buggies and older people. Funding to pay for a company to carry out the work.	St George's Church Car Park, Crayford Road	March and April 2020	People with disabilities, wheelchairs, buggies and older people	400 Islington residents	2,040	2,040	Not applicable	
St Peters	Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler	St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group	A four week summer holiday programme for 25 disadvantaged children who are recommended by the four local primary schools. Funding is requested for a two day kayaking programme leading to the Certificate of Kayaking Competence for two groups of 12 children.	Arc Community Centre, 98b St Paul Street	3 to 28 August 2020	Disadvantaged young people aged 9 to 11 attending schools in St Peter's ward	25 children and their families	4,800	25,000	£6,500 tbc Lottery, £5,000 tbc LBI Community Chest, £3,000 tbc John Murray Foundation, £5,500 tbc further fundraising	A £1,099 underspend from the £4,818 grant awarded in January 2019 will be used to hire the Arc centre in August 2020 for these summer holiday sessions.

NEW PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN FEBRUARY 2020

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Tollington	Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	Mitford Road Residents Association	A street party and big lunch for residents of Mitford Road, guests and visitors to the street on the day. Funding to contribute towards refreshments, event insurance, face painting, van rental and a Temporary Events Notice licence.	Mitford Road	30 June 2019	Mainly local residents	200 Islington residents	412	412	Not applicable	
Tollington	Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	Hanley Crouch Community Association	Costs of a Tollington Ward Partnership community consultation event / fun day on 11 January 2020. Funding to pay for staff costs, catering, catering equipment, marketing, music, Wild Fangs, publicity, face painting and a bouncy castle.	Brickworks Community Centre or St Mark's Primary School	29 February or 7 March 2020	Local residents	500+	2,000	2,000	Not applicable	

Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining

Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2019-20:	£225,000
Total allocations to be made from previous LIF budgets:	£6,835
Amount allocated by VCS Committee to date:	£151,605
Balance remaining:	£80,230
New proposals for February VCS Committee:	£32,248
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2019-20:	£47,982

2019-20 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£2,273
Bunhill	£2,087
Caledonian	£600
Canonbury	£3,343
Clerkenwell	£606
Finsbury Park	£4,198
Highbury East	£7,836
Highbury West	£884
Hillrise	£3,697
Holloway	£333
Junction	£7,886
Mildmay	£3,946
St George's	£587
St Mary's	£4,718
St Peter's	£2,550
Tollington	£2,440

£47,982**Notes:**

Includes £96 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £612 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £598 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £173 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £966 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,000 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £433 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,051 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,000 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £907 from previous LIF allocations / budgets



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	3 February 2020		All

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

SUBJECT: DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 In November 2019 the Council's Executive agreed a new Discretionary Rate Relief (DRR) programme for non-profit and charity organisations for 2020-2023. This report sets out the background to the Council's DRR policy for 2020-23 (Appendix C) and outlines the recommendations for DRR applications received in the most recent application period (Deadline 12th January 2020).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree DRR awards to the organisations listed at Appendix A for 3 years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.
- 2.2 To agree DRR awards to the organisations listed at Appendix B for 3 years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023 subject to valuations of the premises falling within the threshold for DRR as outlined in the policy (Appendix C).
- 2.3 To agree the deferral of one application as further information has been requested. Subject to this information being provided, the application will then be considered in a future round.

3. Background

- 3.1 Islington has an extensive range of independent charities, voluntary and community sector organisations and other not-for-profit organisations whose work is central to the Council's ambition of a fairer Islington. Through their reach and responsiveness these organisations improve outcomes for residents across the Council's corporate priorities and support the Council's early intervention and prevention ambitions.
- 3.2 As a "billing authority" Islington has the power to grant DRR to organisations that meet certain criteria. Any relief granted is used to reduce the amount the organisation is required to pay in business rates. Powers granted under the Localism Act 2011 allow Councils to grant DRR in any circumstances where it feels fit having regard to the effect on the Council Tax payers of its area.

- 3.3 The Council's current DRR programme will end on the 31 March 2020. This programme currently sees £1.36 million of rate reliefs awarded to 227 properties occupied by 163 different organisations.
- 3.4 The Council funds at least 30% of any DRR awarded, in 2019-2020 the 'cost of funding' was therefore in the region of £410k. This £410k represents business rates income the Council would otherwise have collected and used in providing services to Islington residents.
- 3.5 In recognition of the value that not-for-profit organisations play in improving the lives of local residents, the Council's Executive agreed a new Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2020-23 in November 2019, committing to provide Discretionary Rate Relief to not-for-profit organisations and charities at the same level of £410K of forgone business rates income for the Council per annum.
- 3.6 The Council's 2020-23 DRR programme was launched in December 2019. There will be two application deadlines per year, however organisations can apply at any point and if a DRR award is made this will commence from the date on which they are received unless there are extenuating circumstances for the award to commence from an earlier date within that billing year.
- 3.7 For the December 2019/January 2020 applications were received from 94 organisations for 119 hereditaments. These applications were assessed in line with the criteria detailed in the Council's DRR Policy 2020-23 (Appendix C).

4. Discretionary Rate Relief Award Recommendation

- 4.1 Following assessment, DRR is **recommended** to 83 organisations occupying 105 hereditaments shown at Appendix A as all of these applications clearly meet the criteria set out in the DRR policy (Appendix C). Approvals are broken down into the following categories:

	Total Relief Awarded (forecasting 2020/21)	Total Cost to LBI (forecasting 2020/21)
Estate Community Centre and Hall	£108,717.53	£32,635.26
Leisure Facilities	£156,200.26	£46,860.08
School	£222,458.68	£66,737.59
Voluntary and Community Organisations	£326,928.90	£98,078.69
Grand Total	£814,305.37	£244,311.62

- 4.2 DRR is **recommended** to 12 organisations as shown at Appendix B. These premises need to be inspected in order to establish rateable values and the applications will be considered once the business rate values have been established. The recommendation of awarding DRR is subject to the business rates values falling within the thresholds as detailed in the DRR policy (Appendix C) as the applications meet the necessary criteria.
- 4.3 One application from the organisation Islington Link Up is being deferred as there is a current request for further information pertaining to activities and policies, and this will be included in a future round to the VCS Committee.

5. Implications

- 5.1 **Financial implications:**

DRR is awarded at the Council's discretion. However, under the current business rates retention scheme, the Council bears 30% of the costs of discretionary rate relief, (with 50% and 20% borne by central government and the Greater London Authority respectively). Thus under the current spending plan of £1.36m DRR, the Council will forfeit approximately £410k worth of business rates income annually, which equates to £1.2m over the three-year periods as proposed.

Hence any increase in the overall costs of DRR would represent a budget pressure for the Council and would need to be offset by additional compensatory savings elsewhere. The relief awards in this report will be met through the existing arrangements within the collection fund.

5.2 Legal Implications:

The Council has a discretion to grant rate relief as set out in the policy. The policy provides guidelines as to the circumstances in which awards will be made and as to the total amount of awards that can be made, and permits a departure from those guidelines in exceptional circumstances.

The De Minimis Regulations (360/2012) on the provision of State Aid will apply as long as the amount of relief granted does not exceed €500,000 over 3 years. Decisions to grant DRR will be made with this threshold in mind and applicants should declare if they are receiving state aid from any other source which might take them above this threshold.

5.3 Environmental Implications:

The awarding of DRR is unlikely to have any significant direct environmental impacts. However, part of the application process was to ask organisations what they were doing to contribute towards the net zero emissions ambition. The answer to this question made up 33% of the scoring that formed the basis of the decision on which organisations to award rates relief to. This may encourage organisations to reduce their carbon emissions in order to obtain relief in future years, and rewards organisations that do so. The new policy for 2020-2023 also mandates that DRR awards cannot be made for car parking spaces, in line with Islington's ambition to achieve net zero carbon emissions from the borough by 2030.

5.4 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.

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 that create a fairer Islington by delivering the commitments in Islington's corporate plan.

6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

The Council has a strong partnership with the voluntary, community and not-for-profit sector and values highly the role that local organisations play in meeting the needs of some of Islington's most disadvantaged communities.

Awarding discretionary rate relief to not-for-profit organisations or other bodies providing a community or social benefit is a cost effective way of supporting local organisations delivering the commitments set out in our corporate plan.

Appendices

Appendix A – List of organisations recommended for approval

Appendix B – List of organisations recommended for approval subject to valuations

Appendix C – DRR Policy 2020-2023

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Una O'Halloran
Executive Member for Community Development

Report Author: Shabana Aslam, VCS Funding and Commissioning
Partnerships Manager

Tel: 0207 527 3848

Email: Shabana.aslam@islington.gov.uk

Appendix A: Discretionary Rate Relief Recommended Approvals

Organisation	Hereditament	Relief Awarded (forecasting 2020/21)	Cost to LBI (forecasting 2020/21)
Estate Community Centre and Halls			
Almorah Community Centre	13a Almorah Rd, N1 3EU	£6,102.75	£1,830.82
Aubert Community Centre	Aubert Court Estate, Avenell Road, N5 1BT	£8,605.27	£2,581.58
Brecknock Estate TRA Flat	1 Blake House, Brecknock Estate, London N19	£1,172.31	£351.69
Earlstone Estate Tenants Hall	3rd Floor Midway House, Manningford Close, EC1V 8EH	358.44	£107.53
Gambier Hall/Betty Bruncker Hall	Mora Street, EC1V 8EH	£2,244.85	£673.46
Girdlestone Estate Community Centre	Under 110, Salisbury Walk, Girdlestone Estate, N19 5DP	£3,691.53	£1,107.46
Goodinge Community Centre	North Road, N7 9EJ	£7,108.70	£2,132.61
Half Moon Crescent Community Centre	Wynford Street London, N1 3DP	£6,037.13	£1,811.14
Hargrave Hall	Hargrave Road, N19 5SP	£1,766.62	£529.99
Harry Rice Community Centre	72 – 74 Hargrave Park, N19 5JN	£3,392.22	£1,017.67
Hawthorne Close Tenants Association	Flat 44 Hawthorne Close, Kingsbury Road, N1 4AW	£3,149.80	£944.94
Hilldrop Community Association	Community Lane, N7 0JE	£7,856.98	£2,357.09
Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association	Hornsey Lane Estate, Hazelville Road, N193YJ	£5,362.70	£1,608.81
Lorraine Estate Community Centre	229 Biddestone Road, N7 9UE	£4,173.57	£1,272.08
Mildmay Community Partnership	Mildmay Community Centre, Woodville Road, N16 8NA	£2,765.15	£829.54
Nailour Hall	Blundell Street, N7 9BU	£3,990.85	£1,197.25
St Johns Community Centre	85-88 Holland Walk, Elthorne Estate, N19 3XS	£8,605.27	£2,581.58
Stephens Ink Community Centre	Stephens Ink Estate, Tannington Terrace, Gillespie Rd, N5 1LN	£3,491.99	£1,047.60
Westbourne Community Centre	43 Roman Way London, N7 8RS	£9,515.04	£2,854.51
Weston Rise Community Centre	187 Pentonville Road, N1 9NZ	993.40	£298.02
Williamson Street Community Centre	Parkhurst Road, N7 0SN	£6,485.13	£1,945.54
York Way Community Centre	Treaty Street, N5 1RN	£11,847.83	£3,554.35

Leisure Facilities			
GLL Leisure Centres	Archway Leisure Centre, MacDonald Rd, N19 5DD	£27,002.01	£8,100.60
	Cally Pool, Caledonian Road, N1 OWH	£10,381.49	£3,114.45
	Finsbury Leisure Centre, Norman St, EC1V 3PU	£16.39	4.92
	Highbury Pool and Fitness Centre, Highbury Crescent, N5 1RR	£8,944.05	£2,683.22
	Ironmonger Row Baths, 1 Norman St, EC1V 3AA	£54,381.91	£16,314.57
	Islington Tennis Centre, Market Road, N7 9PL	£18,207.53	£5,462.26
	Sobell Leisure Centre, Hornsey Rd, N7 7NY	£37,266.88	£11,180.06
Schools			
Blessed Sacrament Catholic School	Boadicea Street, N10UF	£3,564.02	£1,069.20
Central Foundation Boy's School	Cowper Street, EC2A4SH	£37,533.07	£11,259.92
Islington Arts and Media School	Turle Road, N43LS	£25,341.48	£7,602.44
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	77 Eden Grove N7 8EE	£13,416.08	£4,024.82
Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School	Georges Road, N78JN	£13,309.60	£3,992.88
St Aloysius College	Hornsey Lane, N65LY	£67,000.00	£20,100.00
St Andrews CofE School	Matilda Street, N10LB	£7,967.56	£2,390.27
St Joan of Arc School	North Home Road, N52UX	£11,925.40	£3,577.62
St John Evangelist Catholic Primary School	Duncan Street, N18BL	£7,156.03	£2,146.81
St Johns Holloway C of E School	Pemberton Gardens, London N19 5RR	£3,004.57	£901.37
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School	Highgate Hill, N195NE	£14,480.84	£4,344.25
St Jude and St Paul's School	10 Kingsbury Road, N14AZ	£12,351.31	£3,705.39
St Luke's Primary	Randor Street, EC1V3SJ	£3,616.50	£1,084.95
St Marks CofE School	Sussex Way, N194JF	£1,792.22	£537.67
Voluntary and Community Organisations			
Aberdeen Park Nursery	143 Highbury New Park, N52LJ	£578.96	£173.69
Abianda	Unit 2K, Leroy House, 436 Essex Road, N1 3QP	£4,467.00	£1,340.10
Almeida Theatre	108 Upper Street, N11QN	£6,605.63	£1,981.69
	Almeida Street, N11TA	£7,879.28	£2,363.78
Andover Pre-School	49-50 Corker Walk, Andover Estate, N77RY	£1,706.57	£511.97
Arachne Greek Cypriot Women's Group	13 (Ground Floors), Hercules Street, N7 6AT	£1,741.02	£522.31

	15 Hercules Street N7 6AT	£1,894.64	£568.39
Arsenal	Arsenal Hub, Queensland Road, N7 7AJ	£67,000.00	£20,100.00
Awesome Elm	Barnard Adventure Playground, Copenhagen Street, N10ST	£2,070.25	£621.08
	Cake Adventure Playground 85 Crouch Hill N8	£27,651.46	£8,295.44
	Corn Wallis Adventure Playground, Cornwallis Rd N19 4LP	£7,874.52	£2,362.36
	King Henry's Walk Adventure, 11 King Henry's Walk, N1 4NX	£9,478.26	£2,843.48
	Three Corners Adventure Playground, Three Corners Centre, Northampton Rd, Ec1R0HU	£24,818.09	£7,445.43
	Waterside Adventure Playground, 50 Dame Street, N1 7FR	£10,499.35	£3,149.81
Bowlers Community Nursery	81 Crouch Hill, N89EJ	£5,318.29	£1,595.49
Brightstart Community Nursery	55 Corker Walk, Andover Estate, N77RY	£3,330.00	£999.00
Caxton House	129 St Johns Way, N193RQ	£4,198.92	£1,259.68
Charteris Neighbourhood Tenant Coop	94 Moray Road, N43LA	£1,350.72	£405.22
Claremont Project	24-27 White Lion St, N1 9PD	£2,223.61	£667.08
Copenhagen Youth Project	Naish Court Community Centre, 172 Copenhagen Street N1 0ST	£7,501.43	£2,250.43
Cubitt Artists	8 Angel Mews, N19HH	£9,742.63	£2,922.79
Culpeper Community Garden Association	2 Dignum Street, N10FJ	£441.59	£132.48
Finsbury Park Trust	225,225 & 229 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA	£1,894.64	£568.39
Hanley Crouch Community Association	42 Crouch Hill, N44BY	£4,557.37	£1,367.21
Highbury Community Nursery	15 Aubert Park, N51TL	£5,376.67	£1,613.00
Hillside Clubhouse	Units A&B, 29/30 North Road, N7 9GH	£1,382.57	£414.77
Holloway Neighbourhood Group	Old Fire Station, 84 Mayton Street, N76QT	£1,638.60	£491.58
INCA CGIL UK	124 Canonbury Road, London, N1 2UT	£13,452.30	£4,035.69
Islington Boxing Club (Community Sports Academy)	20 Havelville Road, N19 3LP	£1,382.57	£414.77
Islington MIND	Unit 10, Archway Business Centre, 19-23 Wedmore St, N19 4RU	£1,356.66	£407.00
	Unit 4 Archway Business Centre, 19-23 Wedmore St, N19 4RU	£1,620.47	£486.14
Islington Pensioners Forum	1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N10RN	430.13	£129.04
Islington Play Association	Lumpy Hill Adventure Playground, Market Rd, N7 9PL	£2,995.57	£898.67

	Martin Luther King Adventure Playground, 3 Sheringham Road, N78PF	£1,264.80	£379.44
	Timbuktu Adventure Playground, 30 Ironmonger Rd, EC1V 3QS	£3,617.48	£1,085.24
	Toffee Park Adventure Playground, 30 Ironmonger Road, EC1V 3QS	£1,803.71	£541.11
	Wynford Rd, N19SG	802.06	£240.62
Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrants	115 Old Street, EC1v9rt	£5,274.26	£1,582.28
King Henry's Walk	King Henry's Walk Garden, 11C King Henry's Walk, N1 4NX	143.38	£43.01
Kings Square Community Nursery	Rahere House, Central Street, EC1V8DE	532.44	£159.73
Little Angel Theatre	14 Dagmar Passage, N12DN	£2,048.26	£614.48
	Sebbon Street Community Centre, Sebbon Street N12DZ	686.17	£205.85
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	8 Tiltman Place, N77EN	£10,062.06	£3,018.62
Mildmay Community Nursery	19-23 Mildmay Park, N14NA	£6,562.10	£1,968.63
Nafsiyat	Unit 4, Lysander Mews, Lysander Grove, N19 3QP	£3,492.39	£1,047.72
New Swift Housing Coop	Second Floor, 12 Pine Grove, N43LL	£1,789.15	£536.74
North London Scout District	Ramsey Scout Centre, 319 Holloway Road, N79FU	£2,509.11	£752.73
Park Theatre	11 Clifton Terrace, N4 3JP	£6,585.06	£1,975.52
Rosemary Gardens Playgroup	Playgroup House, Rosemary Gardens, Southgate Road, N13JR	£409.65	£122.90
Shelter from the storm	89-91 Holland Walk, N193XU	£2,140.60	£642.18
South Mildmay Tenants Coop	52b Mildmay Park, N14PR	£811.23	£243.37
St Luke's CC	80 Central Street, EC1V 8AJ	£3,362.19	£1,008.66
	90 Central Street, EC1V 8AJ	£13,082.89	£3,924.87
St Mary Community Partnership	St Mary's Neighbourhood Centre, Upper Street, N1 2TX	£1,686.09	£505.83
Stafford Cripps	1 Parmoor Court, Gee Street, EC1V 3RP	£1,394.45	£418.33
Stuart Low Trust	Office 3, Claremont, 24-27 White Lion St, N1 9PD	£479.64	£143.89
Switchboard LGBT+	1 Penton Street, N19QS	£2,698.14	£809.44
The Parenthouse	55 Calshot St, N1 9AS	£1,755.68	£526.70
The Peel	3 Corners Centre, Northampton Road, EC1R 0HU	£1,792.22	£537.67
Whittington Park Community Association	Rupert Road, N19 4BQ	£2,048.26	£614.48
	Yerbury Rd, London, N19 4RS	£1,664.21	£499.26
Wu Shi Taiji Quan & Qi Gong Association	Ground Floor, 20 Blackstock Road, N42DW	£1,971.45	£591.43

	Grand Total	£814,305.37	£244,311.62
--	--------------------	--------------------	--------------------

Appendix B: Discretionary Rate Relief Considerations for Approval – Subject to valuations of premises

Organisation	Hereditament	Details
Essex Road Pre-School (Walter Sickert CC)	Essex Road Pre School at rear of Walter Sickert Community Centre Cannonbury Crecent N12FB	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust - Hornsey Rd Childrens Centre	6-9 Manor Gardens, London N7 6LA	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Islington Play Association	164 Mackenzie Rd, N7 ASE	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Islington Play Association	Crumbles Adventure Playground Pembroke Street N10DP	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Holloway Neighbourhood Group	HNG Stress Project 2 Shelbourne road N77DL	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
North London Scout District	Flat 1, first floor, 321 Holloway Road N79FU	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Birchmore Hall	Highbury Quadrant, N5 2TZ	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Brunswick Estate Community Room	Mulberry Court, Tompion Street EC1V 0EL	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Charles Rowan House - TRA flat	88 Charles Rowan House, Margery Street WC1X 0EH	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Chesnuts Community Centre	Highbury Grange, London N5 2QE	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Finsbury Unity Room Community Centre	Ground Floor, Michael Cliffe House, Finsbury Estate EC1R 0WW	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
St Lukes TRA Flat	Bath Court, St Lukes Estate, Peerless Street, EC1V 9EU	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.
Thornhill House Tenants Association	Thornhill Common Room, Offord Road, N1 1PA	Premises to be inspected to establish business rates.

Islington Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy 2020-23

Our policy for the application of Discretionary Rate Relief to charities and not-for-profit organisations

October 2019

Table of Contents

Charity and Not-for-Profit Discretionary Rate Relief Policy	2
1. Introduction	2
2. Scope of this Policy.....	2
3. General Information	2
4. Maximum Awards	3
5. Eligibility	4
6. Assessment Criteria	5
7. Duration of Awards.....	6
8. Applications Process	6
9. Applications for Retrospective Periods.....	7
10. Circumstances that may prevent an award being made or result in an award being terminated	7
11. Review/Reconsideration process.....	8
12. Conditions.....	8

Charity and Not-for-Profit Discretionary Rate Relief Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Local Government Finance Act 1988 makes provision for local authorities to award certain reliefs. This policy relates to the discretionary powers of the Islington Council to award business rates relief under Section 44A, Section 47 and Section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 as amended by the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2. This policy document sets out the Council's approach to providing discretionary rate relief to local charities and not-for-profit organisations for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023. It outlines how we will use the Council's local discretionary powers to grant discretionary rate relief to organisations that meet the schemes criteria.
- 1.3. The policy recognises that public funds are not unlimited and that a proportion of the costs of any relief granted are borne by council tax payers. Therefore, one of the criteria for making an award under the scheme is ensuring that money invested in this way will result in economic and/or community benefit for residents.

2. Scope of this Policy

- 2.1. The Council's Charity and Not-for-Profit Discretionary Rate Relief policy covers Discretionary Rate Relief under which:
 - Up to **20% relief** can be awarded to registered charities and registered sports clubs that qualify for mandatory rate relief.
 - Up to **100%** relief can be awarded to organisations that do not qualify for mandatory relief, but who meet the eligibility criteria stipulated in this policy.

3. General Information

- 3.1. This policy has been agreed by the Council to ensure that:
 - There is a framework under which ratepayers applying for relief are treated in a fair, consistent and equal manner.
 - The overall interest of the Council Tax payers of the borough is safeguarded by ensuring that funds are allocated and used in the most effective and economic way.
- 3.2. The Council will consider each individual case in accordance with the criteria set out in this policy. Consideration may be given to extenuating circumstances falling outside the stated criteria, providing they meet the general principles of the scheme.

- 3.3. In accordance with the Council's Constitution an Executive Director may determine discretionary rate relief applications which fall outside the scope of this approved Policy under exceptional circumstances.
- 3.4. Discretionary Rate Relief is not a matter of right; the Council is entitled through this policy to determine different levels of relief according to the nature and circumstances of individual organisations and the benefits they deliver to the wider community of Islington.
- 3.5. The Council's ability to grant Discretionary Rate Relief may be limited by other factors, such as for example, state aid rules.
- 3.6. Recipients of relief are required to notify the Council immediately of any changes of circumstances which may have an impact upon the award granted.
- 3.7. The Discretionary Rate Relief scheme covered by this policy is funded wholly by the Council foregoing income. The Council will set a limited threshold for the level of income that it will forego each financial year for the award of all Discretionary Rate Relief. This scheme will provide £1.36 million of Discretionary Rate Relief Awards per annum throughout the duration of this policy. Only in wholly exceptional circumstances, will awards that take the overall level of relief awarded above this level, be considered, regardless of whether applications meet the criteria set out in this policy.

4. Maximum Awards

- 4.1. This Council can grant the following levels of relief to organisations applying for Charity and Not-for-Profit Discretionary Rate Relief:

- **Up to 20% Top Up Discretionary Rate Relief for Registered Charities and Registered Amateur Sports Club:**

Charity Top Up Relief of up to 20 per cent can be awarded on premises occupied by organisations in receipt of Mandatory Rate Relief, including:

- Registered Charities (registered with the Charity Commission) for premises which are wholly or mainly used for charitable purposes.
- Registered Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) registered as such under the Corporation Tax Act 2010, for premises wholly or mainly used for the purpose of the club, or for the purpose of the club and other CASCs.

This is because the Local Government Finance Act 1998 (LGFA) requires Local Authorities to grant 80% Mandatory business rate relief reduction to businesses meeting the conditions above.

- **Up to 100% Discretionary Rate Relief for Charities and Not-for-Profits:**

Islington council will consider awarding Discretionary Rate Relief of up to 100% on premises occupied by certain organisations or institutions that do not qualify for Mandatory Rate Relief, but that meet the criteria in this scheme, including:

- Properties occupied by organisations or institutions that are not-for-profit, and whose main objects are charitable or otherwise philanthropic.
 - Properties occupied by not-for-profit sports or social clubs or societies, or other organisations for the purpose of recreation.
 - Other organisations meeting the policy criteria that the Council believes should receive relief having regard to the interests of persons liable to pay council tax.
- 4.2. The sum available for awards of Discretionary Rate Relief is fixed annually for the duration of this programme. In each round of applications, priority will be given to organisations with the lowest rateable values. However, the number of organisations benefiting and the value of any awards made will be dependent on the number of applications received.
- 4.3. Leisure facilities operated by Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) in the borough will receive Discretionary Rate Relief, regardless of the number of applications received in recognition of the unique role played by these facilities in meeting the health and social needs of council tax payers in the borough.

5. Eligibility

- 5.1. Applicants must fulfil all of the following criteria for any application for Discretionary Rate Relief to be considered (evidence may be required):
- The relevant premises must be in the borough of Islington.
 - The organisation must be directly liable for the rates on the property.
 - The organisation's registered address must be within Islington.
 - The organisation must be a not-for-profit organisation such as a charity, unincorporated association, community interest company, cooperative society, or a charitable company (i.e. an organisation that is registered with the charity commission whose purpose is something other than making private profit for directors, members or shareholders).
 - 75% or more of the primary beneficiaries of the organisation's services must be Islington residents.
 - The organisation must adhere to the Equality Act 2010 to legally protect people from discrimination in the workplace and in the wider society.
 - All of the organisation's employees must be paid the London Living Wage as a minimum, and must review this annually.
 - The organisation must not be subject to investigation by a relevant regulator, which may include the Charity Commission, Ofsted or Care Quality Commission.
 - The organisation must have filed up-to-date accounts with the appropriate national authority at the time of application, where relevant.
- 5.2. Not all charities and not-for-profit organisations will qualify for Charity and Not-for-Profit Discretionary Rate Relief, though may qualify for Mandatory Rate Relief. The following organisations or premises will not be considered for Discretionary Rate Relief regardless of their status:

- Profit making organisations
- Administration offices for national charities
- Overseas aid organisations
- Charity shops and cafes operated by national charities or associated organisations
- Housing Associations
- Private schools, colleges, nurseries or schools that are not within the Islington family of schools
- Buildings used for worship or promotion of religious belief
- Organisations operating a restrictive membership policy for which a fee is payable
- Empty properties
- Car parking spaces

6. Assessment Criteria

6.1. Providing you meet the minimum criteria outlined above we will assess your application for Discretionary Rate Relief using the following scoring criteria. All criteria will carry equal weighting.

Criteria	Criteria Points
1. Council Priorities	1.1 How well your charitable objects or the aims set out in your constitutions align with the council's corporate priorities as set out in 'Building A Fairer Islington – Our Commitment 2018-22' .
2. A Fairer Islington	2.1 How well the services that you provide serve the needs of sections of the community experiencing social or economic exclusion and groups protected under the Equality Act 2010
3. Net zero carbon emissions from the borough by 2030.	3.1 How your organisation is supporting Islington's ambition to have net zero carbon emissions from the borough by 2030.

6.2. In assessing your responses, our scores will score your questions using the framework below. We will require a minimum score of three or above for all criteria in order to recommend applications for a discretionary rate relief award.

Score	Response Assessment
0	There is no response to the question
1	An attempt has been made to respond, but does not meet requirements/solution does not cover any essential points

2	The response/solution partially meets requirements (covers some essential points)
3	The response/solution meets requirements (covers all essential points, may have included clear examples)
4	The response/solution exceeds requirements (covers more than the essential points, giving clear examples)
5	The response/solution will add significant value (covers more than the essential points, giving clear thorough examples to illustrate how value will be added)

6.3. The following limits to awards will apply to Discretionary Rate Relief applications by hereditaments:

Rates Bill (Net of reliefs)	Cost to the Council	Indicative Levels of Funding
Up to £67,000	Up to £20,100	Organisations will normally be awarded Discretionary Rate Relief of up to 100% of their outstanding rates bill.
Over £67,000	Over £20,100	Awards will be proportionate to the level of local benefit which may be less than 100% discretionary rate relief on their outstanding rates bill

7. Duration of Awards

- 7.1. Awards made after the billing year has started will commence from the date on which they are received unless there are extenuating circumstances for the award to commence from an earlier date within that billing year.
- 7.2. General discretionary relief awards are fixed awards made for the period covered by this policy 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023.
- 7.3. The Local Government Finance Act 1988 requires that the local authority give 12 months' notice for the withdrawal of Discretionary Rate Relief. This notice will be given alongside the award of relief to successful applicants where applicable.

8. Applications Process

- 8.1. Applications must be made by the registered ratepayer using the Council's standard forms which are available on the Council website at:

[Islington.gov.uk/discretionaryraterelief](https://www.islington.gov.uk/discretionaryraterelief)

- 8.2. The application must be made by a person with the authority to act on behalf of the applying organisation. The Council may ask for evidence that the person

making the application is entitled to act in that capacity. There will be two application rounds per year, with deadlines in December and May each year. Details will be advertised on the Council's website.

- 8.3. Applications must explain the purpose and activities of the organisation, providing details of the charitable objects, or organisational purpose as set out in the organisation's constitution or articles of association, clearly showing how that organisation supports or will support the Council's priorities.
- 8.4. Applicants may be required to supply supporting information with their application as detailed in the application form. If any organisation fails to provide information/evidence within the required time limits, their application will not be considered.
- 8.5. If an organisation is unable to provide any of the above, then a detailed explanation outlining your reason(s) must be provided. In some circumstances we may decide that it is necessary to visit the rated property to assist the decision process.
- 8.6. Business Rates are still due and payable as previously billed during the application process and until a final decision has been advised. Any overpayment will be refunded.
- 8.7. Applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application once a decision has been made.

9. Applications for Retrospective Periods

- 9.1. Discretionary Rates Relief will not normally be awarded in respect of any day prior to the day that an application is received. However, in exceptional circumstances consideration may be given to awarding rate relief for a retrospective period where the ratepayer can demonstrate good cause for not submitting the application earlier.
- 9.2. No consideration shall be given to an award for a retrospective period where the Council is not able to verify to its satisfaction that the circumstances giving rise to the application pertained for that period.

10. Circumstances that may prevent an award being made or result in an award being terminated

- 10.1. Where the organisation's business premises include the running of a commercially operated bar serving alcohol this must be incidental to the main purpose of the organisation to qualify for relief. Running a bar in itself is not a reason for declining relief, but a club which is primarily a commercial bar is unlikely to qualify.
- 10.2. In addition to the circumstances above under which no award will be made under this scheme; awards will be terminated early under the following circumstances:

- The organisation ceases from activities which the Council deems to meet the above eligibility criteria. The organisation is required to advise the Council of any such change as soon as possible in writing.
- The organisation ceases trading.

11. Review/Reconsideration process

11.1. Discretionary Rate Relief is awarded entirely at the discretion of the local authority so there is no formal right of appeal. However, applicants dissatisfied with the authority's decision may request that their application be reviewed/reconsidered under the following circumstances:

- Additional information that is relevant to the application and that was not available at the time the decision was made becomes available; or
- There are good grounds to believe the application or supporting information was not interpreted correctly at the time the decision was taken.

11.2. Any such request should be made in writing to the Head of Communities and must be received by the Council within 4 weeks of the date the decision letter is sent. Late appeals will not be considered. The Head of Communities decision will be final.

11.3. All review requests must state the reason for the request and include any supporting evidence.

11.4. Where an application is refused either initially or following a review, further applications will not be considered unless:

- The use of the property changes
- The objectives of the organisation changes
- There have been other material changes that may affect the Council's decision

12. Conditions

12.1. All organisations will be expected on request to:

- Make available annual accounts or financial statements
- Provide evidence of activity over the past year
- Demonstrate plans for services and activities over the coming year
- Provide evidence that all employees are paid the London Living Wage as a minimum

This page is intentionally left blank