



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 remotely via Zoom on **7 July 2020 at 6:30pm.**

Enquiries to : Mary Green
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Despatched : 29 June 2020

Link to the meeting: <https://weareislington.zoom.us/j/95878296071>

Membership

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 - 8

B. Matters for decision

1. Local Initiatives Fund awards 9 - 20
2. New Discretionary Rate Relief awards 21 - 42

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 8 September 2020

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London Borough of Islington

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 3 February 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 3 February 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Una O'Halloran and Richard Watts

Councillor observers: Anjna Khurana and Michelline Safi-Ngongo

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

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

Received from Councillor Diarmaid Ward.

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

None.

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

None.

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

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

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

RESOLVED:

(a) 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.

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

(c) That officers be thanked for their work on processing applications to the Fund.

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

69 **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS (Item B2)**

RESOLVED:

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 3 February 2020

- (a) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to the organisations listed in Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, and for the sums indicated, for three years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.
- (b) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to the organisations listed in Appendix B of the report, for three years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, subject to valuations of the premises falling within the threshold for discretionary rate relief, as outlined in the policy attached as Appendix C to the report.
- (c) That the application from "Islington Link Up" be deferred, pending receipt of further information. Subject to receipt of the outstanding information, the application will be considered in a future round to the Committee.
- (d) That officers be thanked for their work on processing the applications.

Reasons for decision

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

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

The meeting ended at 6.42 pm

CHAIR

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 3											
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)	

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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	
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan	LBI Homes and Communities (Finsbury Park Community Hub)	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	Jannaty Women's Social Society	An all day fashion show which aims to celebrate London's diverse communities by showcasing clothing and accessories from different backgrounds, cultures and heritage. Funding to pay for hall hire, food and drink and advertising.	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	

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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	

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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	
Page 6 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	7 th July 2020		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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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 2020/21 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 note the new proposals and changes to previous proposals submitted by ward councillors as set out in Appendix A which have been agreed by the Executive Member for Community Development under delegated authority.
- 2.2 To note the postponements of previously funded projects. These are set out in Appendix B.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 To note the amendments to ward budgets resulting from project funding being returned. The amendments are detailed at paragraph 3.13 and are included in the budget summary on the last page of Appendix A.
- 2.5 To agree that the temporary revised measures for new and previously funded projects detailed in the Executive report of 30 April 2020 be continued due to social distancing measures still being in place.

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 2020/21, 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 first 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 Jenny Kay is a governor at Newington Green School and the Secretary of the Newington Green Action Group. Both of these groups are involved in the application submitted by Mer-IT which has been allocated £3,000 for the refurbishment of laptops.

3.13 Occasionally projects do not proceed as planned and funding is returned to ward budgets or the use of a grant has to be changed. The changes in uses of previous grants are listed in Appendix A.

In November 2019, £3,284.49 was awarded to London Borough of Islington Public Lighting for festive lighting in Highbury Park and Blackstock Road. No repairs to infrastructure were required and energy rates were lower than estimated which resulted in an underspend of £320.66. This underspend has been returned to the Highbury East and Highbury West budgets for reallocation.

In November 2019, £4,460.87 was awarded to London Borough of Islington Public Lighting for festive lighting in Campdale Road and Tufnell Park Road. No repairs to infrastructure were required and energy rates were lower than estimated which resulted in an underspend of £833.76. This underspend has been returned to the Junction and St George's budgets for reallocation.

In November 2018, £250 was awarded for the costs of a Barnsbury ward partnership meeting. Most of this grant was spent on a meeting on 12 February 2020. A £72 underspend has been returned to the Barnsbury budget for reallocation.

Small residual amounts of 2019/20 funding totalling £6,550 have also been added back into the ward budgets.

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:

Most of the projects funded by the new and amended grants will have carbon and environmental impacts. These include energy use in buildings, generation of waste (including electronic waste), purchase of food and materials, printing of leaflets and use of vehicles. However, some of the projects also have positive environmental impacts, such as establishing bee hives and educating children about bees, while the refurbishment of second-hand laptops avoids the need for the manufacture of new ones.

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 – Approved Local Initiatives Fund Proposals and Grant Use Changes

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

25 June 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 APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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	Jenny Kay	Mer-IT	Buying and refurbishing second hand desktops and laptops which will be distributed to local schoolchildren most in need to aid online learning. They will work with two schools in the area to identify those most in need. Newington Green Action Group will provide dongles and also distribute to further Mildmay families. Funding to contribute towards the purchase of equipment (45 computers and 50 hard drives) and the salaries of two people for 7 days.	Mildmay Community Centre (refurbishment of computers)	7 May to 29 June 2020 (5 to 7 working days to complete work)	Mainly children attending Newington Green and St Jude's and St Paul's Primary Schools	70 families in Mildmay ward	3,000	3,214	£214 Mer-IT	

GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Rowena Champion	North London Prabhati Sangha (NLPS)	Since late February 2020, 6-9 music and dance classes via video link have been delivered. They will try to run some on site classes in Sept/Oct if social distancing restrictions are lifted. In the meantime they will continue to hold virtual classes, on average fortnightly, about 7 classes between April and August and then 4 classes on site in Sept/Oct ideally.	Hugh Cubitt Community Centre	Project now to finish by November 2020	Open to all	380 at NY celebration, 60 at music and dance classes	400	3,374	£1,734 NLPS members	£2,000 grant originally awarded in November 2019 for a Bengali New Year celebration and music and dance classes. Bengali New Year celebration took place on 17 June 2019. £1,600 of the original grant has been spent and 14 music and dance classes on site were delivered as proposed before the lockdown. Project change agreed for £400 of the overall grant.

GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Barnsbury	Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche	Turkish and Kurdish Children's Group	Funding to pay for learning equipment/ resources (i.e. KS1, KS2, KS3 & KS4 workbooks, two whiteboards, notebooks and a printer) as well as volunteer expenses for when the homework club and Maths and English classes return to normal after the lockdown.	Hugh Cubitt Community Centre	Resources to be bought in June and used in September 2020 when classes are back to normal	Young people from Barnsbury ward	20	1,000	1,000	Not applicable	£1,000 grant originally awarded in July 2019 for monthly outings to Sobell Leisure Centre for leisure activities for 20 young people. Project change agreed for the whole grant.
Page 14 Barnsbury / Caledonian / Clerkenwell / Tollington	All councillors of Caledonian, Clerkenwell and Tollington wards / Jilani Chowdhury / Rowena Champion	Islington Bangladesh Association	Maintaining contact with the health and well-being project users via phone and video calls and providing advice on maintaining health while indoors and benefits, housing matters, etc. Staff and volunteers are also helping the most vulnerable project users with shopping and collecting medicines as well as providing food boxes due to the suspension of the lunch club. Funding to pay for participant food boxes for 46 participants for May and June 2020 and the cost of a project outreach worker.	71 Caledonian Road	1 April to 30 June 2020	Older and vulnerable residents, mainly from Caledonian, Barnsbury, Tollington and Clerkenwell wards	46 to 50 regular participants	3,250	3,504	£254 Isl Bangladesh Assoc	£6,500 originally awarded in November 2019 for a Community Health and Well Being Project. Half of this grant (£3,250) has been spent on this original project. Project change agreed for £3,250 of the overall grant.
Canonbury	John Woolf / Nick Wayne (latest 3 awards)	Utturn UK CIC	The Street Associations initiative in Islington, Phase 2 - some activities and events have been cancelled but demand for engagement with communities has increased due to social distancing. The remaining funding of £2,357 will pay for on Outreach worker (who will signpost people to street associations, We Are Islington, Canonbury Mutual Aid Group and HOYD), printing of leaflets, a small amount for emergencies, management and office costs and a Street Association Reunion after lockdown measures are lifted.	Elmore Street, Elizabeth Avenue and Yeate Street	April to Sept 2020	Mainly residents of the three streets	200 residents (400 event attendees and 200 households)	2,357	2,357	Not applicable	£7,057 split over 4 separate awards between Nov 2017 and Mar 2020. £4,700 spent so far mainly as proposed with more spent on the outreach worker and less spent on events. Project change agreed for £2,357 of the overall grant.

GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Finsbury Park / Tollington	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan / Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	The Islington Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Funding for the weekly Over 50s lunch club which consists of volunteers preparing traditional healthy meals. Funding to contribute towards 40 weeks of venue hire and ingredients. They started the sessions in Sept 2019 and stopped on 19 March 2020 due to Covid-19 (the classes were due to run until June 2020) so they asked to use the grant remainder of £261 on rent.	Durham Road Community Rooms (under 32 to 43 Bolton Walk), Durham Road	Sept 2019 to June 2020	Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot women aged 50+	55 from Islington	260.80	1,500	Not applicable	£1,500 originally awarded in March and July 2019 for weekly Over 50s lunch club. £1,239 of this grant has been spent on this original project. Project change agreed for £261 of the overall grant.
Page 15 Highbury West	Roulin Khondoker / Andy Hull	The Garden Classroom	Funding towards the salary of the bee education project manager who will deliver a programme of schools' bee education sessions at Gillespie Park in the Autumn term (September 2020 onwards). If the social distancing measures are still in place by then further delivery can be carried out in Spring 2021.	Gillespie Park	September 2020 to April 2021	15 Islington school classes (420 children), 500 attendees per community event	1,000 (600 Islington residents)	2,000	13,176	£2,250 Gunners, £5,250 private donation, £3,750 schools	£2,000 originally awarded in November 2019 for bee education sessions for schools near Gillespie Park between January and October 2020. Project change agreed for the whole grant.
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Elthorne Pride (on behalf of Elthorne Circle of Friends)	Co-ordination of the delivery of a Covid-19 themed intergeneration activity; the creation of a community quilt (a virtual Elthorne Pride Quilt of Hope), that will also involve estate residents. Residents will be given a craft kit and be supported in creating a quilt square (which will either be collected or photographed) and curated as a virtual quilt. Funding to pay for crafting materials, online/phone support and postcards (which will have a picture of the virtual quilt and be locally distributed).	Hillrise ward / Elthorne Estate catchment area	May to July 2020	Intergenerational project - older people, especially male residents, as well as their younger neighbours	25 to 50, including those publishing and distributing 'The Hope Quilt' postcards	500	900	£400 Elthorne Pride (marketing/distribution, project management / IT support and volunteer reimbursement)	£500 originally awarded in February 2020 to three inter-generational pop up befriending events. Project change agreed for the whole grant.

GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Hillrise / Mildmay / St Peters	Page 16 Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall / Santiago Bell-Bradford / Joe Caluori / Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	KMEWO (Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation)	Delivery of the rest of the 10 week ICT Beginners and ESOL courses at Caxton House. 4 weeks of each course have been delivered and there are 6 weeks remaining. The new delivery will be online or e-learning. The remaining £1,462 to pay for tutors for 6 weeks (ESOL and ICT).	Remote learning at KMEWO premises, Caxton House	Details to follow	Aimed at Kurdish and Middle Eastern women who are going through or have experienced domestic violence	12 registered for ICT Beginners course (6 attending), 18 registered for ESOL course (12 attending)	1,462	1,462	Not applicable	£4,642.50 originally awarded in July 2019 for ESOL and ICT classes and workshops on domestic abuse and FGM. £3,181 of grant spent on the following: ICT Beginners course and Domestic Violence workshops at Newington Green School and Caxton House, International Women's Day at Caxton House. Unable to secure location for courses in St Peter's ward despite doing 1 month of outreach. Women from St Peter's ward come to Caxton House. Project change agreed for £1,462 of the overall grant.
			The project aim remains to reestablish the bee hives but they cannot run face to face sessions for bee keeping so they intend to run remote sessions for people to gain initial knowledge and training whilst they establish the bees on the farm. They would like to allocate some funds to beekeeper training to support this remote delivery including additional costs such as staff time for creating online resources and equipment (purchase of recording/ it technology and a laptop / tablet suitable for using around the farm).	Freightliners Farm	May / June to October 2020	Across Islington but particularly St Mary's, Holloway, Caledonian and Highbury East	20 through online sessions, 1,000 through website and remotely, up to 40,000 when farm is fully open	2,975	4,725	Details to follow	£2,975 originally awarded in November 2018 to a beekeeping project between January and December 2019 - delivery of bee care and the provision of a monthly beekeeping group. Project change agreed for the whole grant.

GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Mildmay	Santiago Bell-Bradford / Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay	Healthy Generations on behalf of Mildmay Extra Care Units (Notting Hill Genesis)	50 weekly Music and Movement Classes for older people at 2 Mildmay Extra Care Units. 35 have taken place and the remaining 15 sessions will be held virtually from 13 May onwards. The cost per session is unchanged but some of the cost may be used to purchase the necessary equipment and data bundles in order to deliver virtually.	73 Mildmay Street and 20-26 Mildmay Park	Sessions stopped 20 March. 15 of the 50 sessions to take place from 13 May to 31 Aug 2020 via Zoom	Residents at Mildmay Extra Care, a lot of whom are disabled	100	600	600	Not applicable	£2,000 originally awarded in July 2019 to pay a musician to lead 50 weekly Music and Movement Classes for older people at 2 Mildmay Extra Care Units over 6 months. £1,400 spent on original project. Project change agreed for £600 of the overall grant.
St Georges	Satnam Gill / Tricia Clarke / Gulcin Ozdemir	Hilldrop Area Community Association	Provision of parcels of food, essential items, information and arts and craft resources. The aim is to make 60 parcels over 24 sessions (twice a week for 12 weeks) for those in financial need and who may be isolated or in need of additional support. Funding to pay for essential sanitary items / toiletries, food, long life dairy products, reusable containers, reusable bags and food labelling.	Hilldrop Community Centre	20 April to 31 July 2020	Local households and families on local estates	60 local households over 12 weeks	750	10,000	£10,000 London Community Response Fund, £2,000 tbc Gunners Fund - covid response	£750 originally awarded in February 2020 to run a 6 week course for local families where they will learn about healthy diets, cooking on a budget and preparing a meal. Project change agreed for the whole grant.

Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining

Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2020-21:	£225,000
Total allocations made from previous LIF budgets:	£7,794
Balance remaining:	£232,794
Proposals agreed under delegated approval as of 25 June 2020:	£3,000
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2020-21:	£229,794

2020-21 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£14,081
Bunhill	£14,500
Caledonian	£14,000
Canonbury	£14,067
Clerkenwell	£15,106
Finsbury Park	£14,592
Highbury East	£15,192
Highbury West	£15,013
Hillrise	£14,633
Holloway	£14,333
Junction	£15,416
Mildmay	£11,258
St George's	£14,417
St Mary's	£14,870
St Peter's	£14,318
Tollington	£14,000

£229,794**Notes:**

Includes £81 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £67 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £606 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £592 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,192 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,013 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £633 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £333 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,416 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £258 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £417 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £870 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £318 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

POSTPONEMENTS REPORTED TO HOUSING IN APRIL AND MAY 2020 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Original Timescale	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Month / Year awarded funding
Barnsbury / Highbury East / Hillrise / Junction / Mildmay	All councillors of Highbury East, Junction and Mildmay wards / Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury / Marian Spall	Islington Mind	Trip to Southend on Sea for 40 Islington members of the LGBTQ+ community	July or August 2020 - exact date tbc	671.98	Mar-20
Barnsbury / Finsbury Park / Junction / Mildmay / St Marys	All councillors of Junction and Mildmay wards / Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury / Gary Heather / Angela Picknell	Islington Mind	Mental Health Recovery Pathway summer trip for Islington residents who face multiple disadvantages combined with complex ongoing mental health problems.	July or August 2020 - exact date tbc	904.21	Mar-20
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche	Friends of Barnard Park	A pop-up event in Barnard Park.	6 June 2020	1,300	Nov-19
Barnsbury	Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche	St Silas Church	Continuation of weekly drop in stay and play sessions for pre school children aged up to five years.	1 September 2019 to 21 July 2020	2,000	Jul-19
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Claudia Webbe	City YMCA London	The 11th Annual Whitecross Street Party, a two day summer festival and an arts exhibition	Festival on 11 and 12 July 2020	2,087.32	Mar-20
Bunhill / Clerkenwell / Highbury East / Highbury West / Holloway / Junction	All councillors of Bunhill, Clerkenwell, Holloway and Junction wards / Osh Gantly / Roulin Khondoker	Back 2 Basics Create	Swimming and spa sessions for women in partnership with GLL.	September 2019 to March 2020	5,100	Jul-19
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran	Coney	We The People (of Caledonian Road) - a three phase community development / community cohesion project	February to April 2020 (two workshops in March)	1,400	Feb-20
Caledonian	Paul Convery / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran	Islington Play Association (Cally Festival)	The 2020 Cally Festival, an annual large-scale community event on the Caledonian Road	Community engagement activities from Feb /March, festival on 21st June 2020	6,496	Feb-20
Canonbury / St Peters	Nick Wayne / Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler	Friends of Rotherfield School (FoR)	Three educational, cultural and fun activities - a 'Gaspard the Fox' show, a 'Fun Run' and a 'Food and Culture evening'.	March to July 2020	1,374	Feb-20
Canonbury	Clare Jeapes / Nick Wayne / John Woolf	The Islington Sea Cadets	Meeting health and safety regulations to enable the building to reopen so it can be used by young people again.	15 to 30 August 2019	2,000	Mar-19
Clerkenwell	Ben Mackmurdie / Matt Nathan / Kadeema Woodbyrne	Marx Memorial Library	Engaging local families with newly digitised archives on child refugees from the Spanish Civil War (1936-9)	Story telling in July, messy play in June, 3 artistic workshops in mid to late July	990	Jul-19
Clerkenwell	Ben Mackmurdie / Matt Nathan / Kadeema Woodbyrne	St Mark's Church, Clerkenwell	Supply and fitting of a disabled access door system with associated equipment	Installation between 11 and 15 November 2019	500	Nov-19

POSTPONEMENTS REPORTED TO HOUSING IN APRIL AND MAY 2020 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Original Timescale	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Month / Year awarded funding
Finsbury Park / Tollington	Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan / Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	Community Language Support Services	22 fortnightly knitting sessions for the women's group	15 April 2019 to 15 March 2020	1,220	Mar 2019 and July 2019
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh	Jannaty Women's Social Society	An all day fashion show showcasing clothing and accessories from different backgrounds	19 April 2020	500	Feb-20
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan	LBI Homes and Communities (Finsbury Park Community Hub) - Southend trip 2020	Annual outing to Southend in July for local families who otherwise would not have an opportunity to get out of London during the summer.	Late July 2020 - exact date to be confirmed	2,718.57	Feb and Mar 2020
Highbury East	Osh Gantly / Sue Lukes / Caroline Russell	Islington Pensioners Forum	Party at Highbury View Sheltered Accommodation.	17 August 2019	475	Jul-19
Highbury East	Osh Gantly / Sue Lukes / Caroline Russell	Quadrant Community Association	Eight pilot exercise sessions and a tea dance for older people	1 June to 31 July 2019	400	Mar-19
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Caxton House Community Centre	50 weekly gentle exercise classes mainly for the over 55s.	5 September 2019 to 27 August 2020	1,500	Jul-19
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Hillrise ward c/o Caxton House	Annual summer festival which will be led and organised by local groups, the ward councillors and individuals.	8 August 2020	2,863.85	Mar-20
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Sheila Chapman	Hargrave Hall Community Centre	A community cinema providing free monthly evening screenings and school holiday screenings.	6 October 2019 to 1 August 2020	350	Nov-19
Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Santiago Bell-Bradford	Sports and Life Skills CIC	April half term multi sports programme offering three sessions per day	7 to 16 April 2020	2,000	Feb-20
Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay / Santiago Bell-Bradford	Haliday House TRA	Installation of a bricked barbeque in the communal front garden area	December 2019 to January 2020	1,075	Nov-19
Mildmay	Jenny Kay	The Garden Classroom	Summer on the Green 2020, a nature themed drop in for families over the summer	12 days over the summer holidays in July and August	2,000	Mar-20
St Georges	Satnam Gill / Tricia Clarke / Gulcin Ozdemir	St George and All Saints Church	Introduction of a dropped kerb in the car park	March and April 2020	2,040	Feb-20
Tollington	Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	Hanley Crouch Community Assoc (tranquil health and well-being workshops)	Monthly tranquil workshops raising awareness of health and well-being	July 2019 to March 2020	1,635.42	Jul-19



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Wards
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	8 July 2020		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: New 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 1) and outlines the recommendations for DRR applications received in the most recent application period (Deadline 3 May 2020).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve DRR awards to 12 organisations (17 hereditaments) listed at appendix 2 for 3 years from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, who have met the criteria as set out in the DRR policy (appendix 1).
- 2.2 To approve DRR from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2023 for 22 organisations (22 hereditaments) listed at appendix 3 who have met the criteria as set out in the DRR policy (appendix 1), noting that these organisations are eligible for other reliefs in this financial year 2020/21.
- 2.3 To approve DRR for three organisations (three hereditaments) which require inspections to establish business rates values (see appendix 4) subject to the values falling below the thresholds as set out in the DRR policy (appendix 1).
- 2.4 To agree the rejection of DRR to 2 organisations (4 hereditaments) which are not eligible for DRR (see appendix 5) as they do not meet the criteria as set out in the DRR policy (appendix 1).

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 DRR programme ended on the 31 March 2020. This programme saw £1.36 million of rate reliefs awarded to 227 properties occupied by 163 different organisations.

3.4 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.

3.5 The Council's 2020-23 DRR programme was launched in December 2019. There are two application deadlines per year, however due to the Covid 19 pandemic it is recommended that organisations applying outside of funding rounds are brought to the next available committee for approval in order to prevent delays and support the sector during this challenging time.

3.6 To date for this financial year, DRR has been awarded to 85 organisations occupying 110 hereditaments. The total in relief awarded is £814,305.37 with a cost to Islington Council of £244,311.62 in foregone income.

3.7 For the latest round of DRR (which closed on 3 May 2020) applications were received from **38 organisations for 55 hereditaments**. These applications were assessed in line with the criteria detailed in the Council's DRR Policy 2020-23 (see appendix 1). An application was withdrawn from one organisation (for one hereditament) because the premise is undergoing construction works and is therefore exempt from business rates. A further four hereditaments from the same organisation are being investigated as no longer being occupied.

4.

4.1 **Alternative Rate Reliefs for Organisations**

Due to the exceptional circumstances caused by Covid 19 the government announced some temporary rate reliefs and support for businesses in response to the coronavirus pandemic. There are also other reliefs which are available to eligible organisations and the Business Rates team are proactively contacting organisations so that they can apply for these. Reliefs available include:

- Retail relief - Businesses in the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors, including pubs, receiving 100% Retail Relief for 2020/21. This means that they will not have to pay business rates for the year 2020/21.
- Small Business Relief - If the business occupies only one property with a rateable value of less than £15,000 (or less than £12,000 before 1 April 2017) organisations can apply for an additional reduction on business rates.

- Transitional relief - Limits how much your bill can change each year as a result of revaluation.

5. Discretionary Rate Relief Award Recommendations

- 5.1 Following assessment, DRR is recommended to **12 organisations occupying 17 hereditaments** shown at appendix 2 as all of these applications clearly meet the criteria set out in the DRR policy (appendix 1) and this will be applied from 1 April 2020 – 31 March 2023. Approvals are broken down into the following categories:

	Total Relief Awarded (2020/21)	Total Cost to LBI (2020/21)
Estate Community Centre and Hall	£1147.42	£344.23
School	£17,914.40	£5374.32
Voluntary and Community Organisations	£104,844.89	£31,453.47
Grand Total	£123,906.71	£37,172.01

- 5.2 A total of **22 organisations occupying 22 hereditaments** have applied successfully for DRR but are now entitled to other rate reliefs for financial year 2020/21. The recommendation is that these premises are awarded DRR but that this will be applied from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2023 subject to the business rates values falling within the threshold as set out in the DRR policy (see appendix 3).

- 5.3 There are **three organisations occupying three hereditaments** which have successfully applied for DRR but which require inspections to establish business rates values (see appendix 4). One of these is a new application and one requires a split to the business rates in the building. Subject to the values falling below the threshold as set out in the DRR policy (appendix 1), the recommendation is that DRR is awarded.

- 5.4 There are **two organisations occupying four hereditaments** which do not meet the criteria set out in the DRR policy and are therefore not recommended for DRR. This is because one is for a car parking space and another organisation is a Housing Association applying for three premises (see appendix 5).

6. Implications

6.1 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 33% and 37% borne by central government and the Greater London Authority respectively). Thus, under the current spending plan of £1.36m discretionary rates relief, the Council will forfeit approximately £410k worth of business rates income annually, which equates to £1.2m over the three-year periods as proposed.

- 6.2 Hence any increase in the overall costs of discretionary rate relief 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.

6.3 **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.

6.4 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.

6.5 **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.

6.6 **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.

6.7 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.

7. **Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations**

7.1 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.

7.2 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 1 – DRR Policy 2020-2023

Appendix 2 – Organisations recommended for approval from 1 April 2020

Appendix 3 – Organisations recommended for approval from 1 April 2021

Appendix 4 – Organisations not recommended for approval.

Appendix 5 - Organisations recommended for approval subject to inspections to establish business rates values

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Uma Aslam

Executive Member for Community Development

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Organisations Recommended for Approval from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023

Name of Organisation	Address of premises for DRR	Type of Organisation	Relief Awarded	Cost to Council
Spa Green TMO	34 Wells House, Spa Green Estate, London EC1R 4TR	Estate	1,147.42	344.23
William Tyndale Primary	William Tyndale Primary School, Upper Street, London N1 2GG	School	14151.20	4245.36
Clerkenwell Parochial CE Primary School	Amwell Street EC1R 1UN	School	3,763.20	1128.96
The Maya Centre	Unit 8, 9-15 Elthorne Road, N19 4AJ	VCS	2612.70	783.81
Cripplegate Foundation	13 Elliott's Place N1 8HX	VCS	28,994.00	8,698.20
Fourth Monkey Education	101 Seven Sisters Road - 3rd Floor N7 7QP	VCS	1,177.60	353.28
Fourth Monkey Education	101 Seven Sisters Road - 1st Floor N7 7QP	VCS	2,739.20	821.76
Fourth Monkey Education	97-99 Seven Sisters Road - 1st Floor N7 7QP	VCS	6,041.60	1,812.48
Fourth Monkey Education	99-101 Seven Sisters Road - 2nd Floor N7 7QP	VCS	7,714.00	2,314.20
Young Actors Theatre	70-72 Barnsbury Theatre, London N1 0ES	VCS	3,840.00	1,152.00
St Christopher's Fellowship	7 Hilmarton Road, London N7 9JE	VCS	686.08	205.824
Centre 404	Gnd flr, Unit 1.31-1.32 United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP	VCS	1,382.40	414.72
Centre 404	Gnd flr, Unit 1.33 United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP	VCS	727.04	218.112
Centre 404	Gnd flr, Unit 1.28 United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP	VCS	727.04	218.112
Elfrida Society	5-6 Purley Place, 34 Islington Park Street, London, N1 1PX	VCS	1689.6	506.88
Greek & Cypriot Cultural & Youth,	96-98 Dresden Road, London N19 3BQ	VCS	7,093.63	2,128.09

Legal & Elderly Centre				
Outlandish	Unit 5 & 6, 113-115 Fonthill Road, London, N4 3HH	VCS	39,420.00	11,826.00
Total			£123,906.71	£37,172.01

Organisations recommended for approval from 2021/22

Name of Organisation	Address of premises for DRR	Type of Organisation
Reliefs Applied 2020/21		
Quaker Court TMO	68 Quaker Court, Banner Street, EC1Y 8QB	Estate
Elthorne 1st Tenant Co-operative Ltd	158 St John's Way, N19 3RL	Estate
Miranda Estate TMO	TMO Office, Henfield Close, London N19 3UW	Estate
Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust	Elizabeth House, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5 IED	VCS
Highbury Fields Bandstand	Highbury Fields, Church Path, London N5 1UP	VCS
Isledon Arts CIC	Platform Youth Hub, Hornsey Road Baths, 2 Titman Place, N7 7EE	VCS
Isledon Arts CIC	Lift Youth Hub, 45 White Lion Street N1 9PW	VCS
Isledon Arts CIC	Rose Bowl Centre, St Pauls Park Marquess Road, N1 2PT	VCS
Islington Arts Factory Ltd	2 Parkhurst Road, Holloway N7 0SF	VCS
Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust	Soapbox Islington 69-85 Old Street EC1V 9HX	VCS
Reliefs due to be applied 2020/21 - Applications in process		
Holbrook Coop	92 Holland Walk N19 3XU	Estate
Blackstock TMO	29 Twyford House, Elwood Street London N5 1EJ	Estate
Arc-Elm Co-operative Housing	70 Mowatt Close London N19 3XZ	Estate
Brooke Park Co-operative	48 Scholefield Rd London N19 3ES	Estate
Wenlake Management Limited	12 Wenlake Estate Old Street London EC1V 9JH	Estate
Taverner & Peckett Square TMO	25 Matthews Court, Highbury Grange N5 2PD	Estate
Brunswick Close TMO	GROUND FLOOR, BRUNSWICK COURT, TOMPION STREET EC1V 0ER	Estate
Dixon Clark Court TMO	Management Office Dixon Clark Court London N1 2UR	Estate
Hornsey Lane Estate Management Board Association Limited	Embay House, Hornsey Lane Estate, Hazellville Road, London, N19 3DD	Estate
Peregrine House	Peregrine House, Hall Street, EC1V 7PQ	Estate
The Factory Children's Centre	107 Matthias Road, Newington Green N16 8NP	VCS
Islington Bangladesh Association	71 Caledonian Road N1 9BT	VCS

Light Project Pro International	1st Floor Orkney House, 195-199 Caledonian Road London N1 0AF	VCS
Islington & Finsbury Youth Project	Owens Row, St John's Street, London EC1V 7DD	VCS

Organisations recommended for approval subject to investigation to establish business rates values

Name of Organisation	Premises Address	Type of Organisation	Reason
Redbrick TMO	Redbrick TMO Vibast Community Centre 167 Old Street London EC1V 9NH	Estate	Inspection needed.
Braithwaite House TMO	Braithwaite House TMO office, Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8NE	Estate	Inspection needed.
Fashion Enter	Unit 1, 113-115 Fonthill Road London N4 3HH	VCS	Inspection needed - New application.

Organisations not recommended for approval as they do not meet the criteria for DRR

Name of Organisation	Address of premises for DRR	Reasons
Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust	Soapbox Islington 69-85 Old Street EC1V 9HX	Car Parking Space
Peter Bedford Housing Association	Basement 181 Isledon Road London N7 7JP	Housing Association
Peter Bedford Housing Association	Basement 179 Isledon Road London N7 7JP	Housing Association
Peter Bedford Housing Association	546 Holloway London N7 6JP	Housing Association

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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

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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

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