



**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 remotely via Zoom on **3 November 2020 at 6:30pm.**

Enquiries to : Mary Green
Tel : (020) 7527 3005
E-mail : democracy@islington.gov.uk
Despatched : 26 October 2020

Link to the meeting: <https://weareislington.zoom.us/j/97500744309>

Membership 2020/21

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

Substitute Members

Councillor Rowena Champion
Councillor Satnam Gill OBE
Councillor Sue Lukes
Councillor Asima Shaikh
Councillor Nurullah Turan

Observers

Councillor Janet Burgess 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 - 2

B. Matters for decision

1. Local Initiatives Fund awards 3 - 28
2. New Discretionary Rate Relief awards 29 - 44

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 meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is scheduled for
26 January 2021

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London Borough of Islington

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 8 September 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held via Zoom on 8 September 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Watts, Comer-Schwartz, O'Halloran and Ward

Observers: Cllr Ngongo

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

76 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

None.

77 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None.

78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None.

79 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 July 2020 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

**80 VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS
PROGRAMME 2021 - 2024 (Item B1)**

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the recommendations for funding to 48 organisations for the VCS Partnership Grants Programme across the 6 strands of the programme be approved, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.
- (ii) That the proposal to provide funding of £30,000 per annum, totalling £97,500 over the programme period, to support the development of a disability focussed network be approved, as detailed in section 4.17 of the report.
- (iii) That the proposal to provide funding of £30,000 per annum, totalling £97,500 over the programme period, in order to support the development of a Black and Minority Ethnic equalities and cohesion network be approved, as detailed in section 4.17 of the report.
- (iv) That the proposal to provide funding of £75,000 per annum, totalling £243,750 over the programme period, to deliver against the recommendations of a review of capacity-building and volunteering support be approved, as detailed in section 4.17 of this report.

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 8 September 2020

- (v) To fund the programme to the required £2.776m per full financial year and over the full 3.25 years of the programme to £9.022m, be agreed.

Reasons for decision – as specified in the report

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest / dispensations granted – none

The meeting ended at 6.45 pm

CHAIR



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	3 November 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 for formal approval.

This report asks the committee to approve the continuation of temporary revised measures for the LIF application process due to the impacts of Covid-19 on the voluntary and community sector.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To agree that the temporary revised measures for new and previously funded projects detailed in the Executive report of 30 April 2020 and that the open programme for applications, be continued due to social distancing measures and Covid-19 restrictions still being in place. These are detailed at paragraph 4.1. The revised measures will be brought to the March 2021 VCS Committee for review.

3. Background

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 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 Voluntary and

Community Sector (VCS) Committee. The team ensures that funds are used appropriately and for the purpose for which they are allocated.

- 3.3 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'.
- 3.4 The VCS Committee in April 2011 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.

4. LIF Awards 2020/21

- 4.1 On 30 April 2020, the Executive agreed that temporary revised measures for new and previously funded projects could be implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures included the following:
 - Authority was delegated to the Executive Member for Community Development and the Corporate Director of Housing to approve final awards and changes to previously funded projects to prevent delays to funding being received. Approved awards will then be brought to the VCS Committee for information only.
 - Previously funded organisations should be given the opportunity to change the use of the grant funding awarded including an extension to the timeline for the event. The normal funding terms and conditions state that all funding must be spent within 12 months of the date of the award. Organisations should be given the opportunity to spend their funding beyond the 12 months' timescale if needed.
 - The monitoring of new and existing projects where the organisation is known to the council and has previously received funding should be ceased. Where an organisation is unknown, further information may be requested.
 - Supporting documents do not need to be provided by new projects though each organisation will need to confirm that they have the appropriate governance documents in place. The VCS Development Team will carry out spot checks during this period and may request further information if needed.
 - Ward budget underspends in 2020/21 exceeding £1,000 per ward can be carried forward to 2021/22. In previous financial years, no more than £1,000 per ward could be carried forward to the following financial year.
 - Applications received for events that will breach Government guidelines on social distancing will not be accepted.

- 4.2 £7,794 from previous LIF allocations added to the £225,000 annual budget makes a total of £232,794 available to allocate in 2020/21. One proposal awarded £3,000 was reported for information to the VCS Committee on 7 July. This left a total of £229,794 available to allocate in 2020/21.
- 4.3 Ward councillors have considered 41 applications for funding and 5 changes to the use of previous funding since the VCS Committee on 7 July. One application was not recommended for funding by ward councillors and one project change was not recommended by ward councillors.
- 4.4 40 new applications and 4 changes to the use of previous funding awarded submitted by ward councillors were agreed by the Executive Member for Community Development under delegated authority on 14 July, 29 July, 18 August, 24 August and 6 October. A list of the organisations approved for funding and the grant award for each organisation is set out in Appendix A. This leaves £149,320 in the 2020/21 budget.
- 4.5 This agreement under delegated authority is subject to the Corporate Director of Housing being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 4.6 Six of the 40 applications approved for funding are from first time applicants.
- 4.7 Four changes to the use of previous grants awarded have been approved since the VCS Committee on 7 July and these are set out in Appendix A for information only. A total of 15 changes to the use of previous grant funding have now been approved since late March 2020.
- 4.8 14 postponements of projects have been reported since the VCS Committee on 7 July and these are set out in Appendix B for information only. Since late March 2020, we have now been notified that 39 previously funded projects have been postponed. Some projects have been postponed more than once and some have been postponed by more than a year. Projects involving gatherings make up 32 of the 39 postponements reported to date.
- 4.9 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 Troy Gallagher, Cllr Phil Graham and Cllr Claudia Webbe are trustees of St Luke's Parochial Trust which has been allocated £2,000 for 'EC1 Pensioner Lockdown Lowdown'.
 - Cllr Una O'Halloran's husband is the chair of St Luke's Parochial Trust which has been allocated £2,000 for 'EC1 Pensioner Lockdown Lowdown'.
 - Cllr Michael O'Sullivan is a volunteer delivering food parcels to vulnerable people for the Finsbury Park Mutual Aid Group which has been allocated £1,500 for costs for deepening its grassroots response to the Covid-19 crisis.
 - Cllr Janet Burgess is on the Manor Gardens Friendship Network Advisory Board which has been allocated £2,166 for food hampers and additional food support for isolated vulnerable people at Christmas time.
 - Cllr Marian Spall is a board member and the vice chair of Elthorne Pride which has been allocated £2,895 for 'The World on our Table'.
 - Since the beginning of lockdown, Cllr David Poyser has been a volunteer delivering food to people in need for Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association which has been allocated £600 for a cream tea for older people.
 - Cllr Marian Spall is a trustee of Caxton House Community Centre which has been allocated £1,452.50 for cooking kits.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial implications:

The Local Initiatives Fund in Financial Year 2020/21 has a total of £247,794 to allocate. This is comprised of an annual budget of £240,000 and a carried forward underspend/unallocated amount of £7,794 from FY19/20. £225,000 will be allocated across 16 wards, with 14 receiving a budget of £14,000 each and the Bunhill and Clerkenwell wards receiving £14,500 each. The £7,794 of carried forward underspend/unallocated funding from FY19/20 will be distributed to the ward from which the money originated. The remaining £15,000 of the LIF budget is spent on honorarium/ incentive payments to ward partnership co-ordinators to a total of £1000 per annum per ward (with Bunhill and Clerkenwell sharing a ward partnership co-ordinator).

The proposals referred to in this report can be met from budget allocations from the Local Initiatives Fund. Delays or alterations to LIF projects may increase ward underspends in Financial Year 2020/21.

Any recommendations for carry forwards of LIF underspends will be subject to yearly reviews of the wider financial needs of the Council.

Any loosening of monitoring procedures will need to ensure that suitable controls remain to ensure financial best practice in the Council's dealings with voluntary and community organisations.

5.2 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.

5.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving net zero carbon Islington by 2030:

Most of the projects funded by the new and amended grants will have carbon and environmental impacts. These include energy use in buildings, purchase of food, materials and goods, printing, building works, the generation of waste, use of cleaning chemicals and use of vehicles. However, some of the projects also have positive environmental impacts, such as planting, the reuse of clothing and cycle refurbishment. Some are also being delivered online, eliminating any travel-related impacts.

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. 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.

6. 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 (for information only)

Appendix B – Postponements of previously funded projects (for information only)

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

22 October 2020



Una O'Halloran
Executive Member for Community Development

Report Author: Patricia Keating
Tel: 020 7527 8325
Email: Patricia.Keating@islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Thomas Cooksey
Tel: 020 7527 1867
Email: Thomas.Cooksey@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Sonal Mistry
Tel: 020 7527 3833
Email: Sonal.Mistry@islington.gov.uk

Environmental Implications Author: James Wilson
Tel: 020 7527 2349
Email: James.Wilson@islington.gov.uk

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NEW PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

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
Barnsbury / Caledonian / Canonbury / Clerkenwell / Highbury East / Hillrise / Holloway / Junction / Mildmay / St Georges / St Marys / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Caledonian, Canonbury, Clerkenwell, Highbury East, Hillrise, Holloway, Junction, St Georges and Tollington wards / Joe Caluori / Santiago Bell-Bradford / Angela Picknell	Islington Mind (LBT Women-Only Day)	Three online creative workshops for people who self identify as women to mark the Annual Women's Celebration (LBT Women-Only Day). There will be an arts and crafts creativity workshop, a musical workshop and an online yoga session. Funding to pay for arts and crafts materials for the 42 clients, data bundles / packages for 20 clients and 3 data packages for volunteers.	Online using Cisco Webex video conferencing platform	June to September 2020, three workshops across three weeks, exact dates tbc	Lesbian, bisexual and trans people who self identify as women	42	1,200	1,400	Not applicable	The amount requested is £1,400 from 13 wards.
Barnsbury / Bunhill / Caledonian / Canonbury / Clerkenwell / Finsbury Park / Highbury East / Highbury West / Hillrise / Holloway / Junction / Mildmay / St Georges / St Marys / St Peters / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Bunhill, Caledonian, Canonbury, Clerkenwell, Highbury East, Highbury West, Hillrise, Holloway, Junction, St Georges and Tollington wards / Asima Shaikh / Joe Caluori / Santiago Bell-Bradford / Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler / Angela Picknell / Nurullah Turan	Bloody Good Period	To supply period products to refugees and asylum seekers, in partnership with the Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants. They can no longer receive product donations or pack products due to the Covid-19 crisis so they are purchasing direct from suppliers. Funding to pay for an assortment of period products for 50 women for two months.	Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, 16-18 Cross Street	June to September 2020	Asylum seeking women from all wards (focussing on those who have been identified as extremely vulnerable by the Isl Centre for Ref and Mig)	50	1,300	1,950	£650 Bloody Good Period	The amount requested from all wards across the borough is £1,300.

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Barnsbury / Bunhill / Caledonian / Canonbury / Clerkenwell / Highbury East / Highbury West / Holloway / Junction / Mildmay / St Georges / St Marks / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Caledonian, Highbury East, Highbury West, St Georges & Tollington wards / Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Nick Wayne / John Woolf / Matt Nathan / Rakhia Ismail / Janet Burgess / Sheila Chalupan / Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay / Angela Picknell / Nurullah Turan	Islington Faiths Forum	As it was not possible for IFF to deliver peace assemblies in schools for September (as they do each year), due to the pandemic, they are working with local young people / creatives to make a film on Human Rights, Black Lives Matter, Economic Injustice and Equalities. The film will be created with Journey to Justice, representatives from different faiths with local young people as the filmmakers. The end product would be made available digitally to all Islington Schools in time for the UN Day of Human Rights on 10 December. Funding to pay for project management and monitoring by IFF, filming and editing by Young Creators (at Copenhagen Youth Project), planning, rehearsals and filming by Journey to Justice, film props, materials and IFF office costs.	Filming at Wesley's Chapel, completed film will be sent to all schools in Islington	5 November to 10 December 2020 (in time for the UN Day of Human Rights on 10 December 2020)	Mainly children and young people in Islington schools (primary, secondary and special needs including pupil referral units)	Approx 28,000 from Islington	2,718.75	2,825	Not applicable	The amount requested from all wards across the borough is £2,825.
Barnsbury / Bunhill / Clerkenwell	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / Rowena Champion / Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Claudia Webbe / Ben Mackmurdie / Matt Nathan / Kadeema Woodbyrne	Angel Church	The Angel Church have prepared over 6,000 meals for shielded residents since March in partnership with the People's Army Islington and Clerkenwell and Bunhill Mutual Aid (who co-ordinate care efforts by connecting volunteers with the shielded and also refer meal recipients to the service). A rota of volunteer chefs cook 150 to 200 meals a day three times a week. They also have a food bank where anyone in need can come to collect basic provisions donated by the community. Funding to pay for over 2,500 meals (meal ingredients, building utilities, volunteers expenses and tupperware for the meals).	The Angel Church, Chadwell Street	August to October 2020	Mainly vulnerable people who are shielding including older people, the disabled and people with other health issues in 6 Islington wards	500 per week	4,000	17,637 (to Dec 2020)	£5,637 People's Army Islington Gofundme, £1,200 The Zetter Hotel, £2,800 tbc donations	The amount requested is £4,000 from 5 wards.
Barnsbury / Caledonian	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / Rowena Champion / Paul Convery / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (Caledonian and Barnsbury Mutual Aid)	To date, the Caledonian and Barnsbury Mutual Aid Group has delivered over 2,800 food parcels and 1,300 hot meals to residents through several food initiatives during Covid-19. This funding relates to a foodbank run out of the Blessed Sacrament Church where food parcels are either collected or delivered throughout Caledonian and Barnsbury wards. Funding to pay for two weeks' food bank expenses, contingency and volunteer expenses.	The Blessed Sacrament Church, 157 Copenhagen Street, N1 0SR	10 to 23 August 2020	All Caledonian and Barnsbury residents, but especially the vulnerable and disadvantaged	Around 700 over the two weeks	800	800	Not applicable	

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Barnsbury / Caledonian / Highbury West / Junction / St Marys / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Highbury West and Tollington wards / Sara Hyde / Janet Burgess / Sheila Chapman / Angela Picknell / Nurullah Turan	MahaDevi Yoga Centre	Purchase of an electric cargo bicycle so yoga therapists can teach classes in children's gardens and outdoor spaces. This group offers therapeutic yoga treatments to children and young adults with complex needs. Most have pre-existing medical conditions, respiratory impairment or weakened immune systems and attend hospitals and special schools. Their regular activities outside have been cancelled and they are shielding with Covid-19 infections on the rise again. The group has been delivering their yoga therapy sessions online and would like to return to face to face sessions. An electric cargo bicycle would enable their teachers to safely travel to children's homes and avoid using public transport and exposure to the virus. The cargo at the front would enable equipment to be carried and they could travel to 25 sessions per week. They could even deliver small socially-distanced group classes.	MahaDevi Yoga Centre, 12 Eden Grove	Purchase in November or December 2020, then used on an ongoing basis	Children and young people with additional and/or complex needs who are immunocompromised and shielding	26 from Islington (9 wards)	2,480.38	3,224.50	Not applicable	The amount requested from 9 wards is £3,224.50
Barnsbury / Caledonian / Holloway	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / Rowena Champion / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran / Diarmaid Ward / Paul Smith	Light Project Pro International (LPPI)	A contribution to the overall costs of premises hire, volunteer expenses and deep cleaning, sanitisation and disinfection in two locations - they will shortly be permanently moving to The Exchange. The organisation targets the socially marginalised in two distinct ways; through education and employment projects and health and well-being projects. They are also currently running a weekly foodbank, have delivered food and toiletries to those that are shielding or self-isolating and set up a Summer Project to help children/young people catch up on learning they may have missed.	Orkney House, 195-199 Caledonian Road and The Exchange, Watkinson Road	November 2020 to April 2021 (6 days a week responding to Covid-19)	Local BAME residents / families who have been disproportionately affected by Covid-19 and who experience disadvantage and exclusion	500 split equally between Barnsbury, Caledonian and Holloway wards	4,500	4,500	Not applicable	
Bunhill	Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Claudia Webbe	St Luke's Parochial Trust	The EC1 Pensioner Lockdown Lowdown, a six month project which aims to stay connected and engaged with older residents without email addresses by distributing monthly information packs. Funding to contribute towards the cost of postage, printing, photocopying and envelopes.	St Luke's Community Centre, 90 Central Street	June to November 2020, continuing until lockdown is over for older residents	Older Bunhill & Clerkenwell residents who don't have email addresses, majority aged 70+	730 residents each month	2,000	5,164		£3,164 St Luke's (towards postage, printing, photocopying and envelopes)

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Bunhill / Clerkenwell	Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Claudia Webbe / Ben Mackmurdie / Matt Nathan / Kadeema Woodbyrne	Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers	Funding to contribute towards the annual salary of the part time Volunteer Services Co-ordinator who currently runs 75 one to one befriending relationships between volunteers and older people across central and south Islington. This is achieved through providing company so as to give clients a greater sense of wellbeing and self worth, which in turn improves their mental Health and quality of life. This often postpones the need for statutory intervention. This project aims to prevent or alleviate isolation among older people. The co-ordinator works 4 days per week.	21a Midway House, Manningford Close	1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021	Older people aged 60+ but with the majority aged over 70	75	3,000	20,800	£4,000 LBI Community Chest, £2,000 Worshipful Company of Insurers, £2,650 donation, £750 Woolnoth Society, £8,400 tbc Independent Age Grants Trust	
Bunhill / St Peters	Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Claudia Webbe / Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	Canal and River Trust	To achieve the Trust's key aim of 'wellbeing by water', the Angel Canal Festival 2020 will have virtual (online) opportunities to increase engagement with, and widen the reach of the canal and basin for communities living within 1km of the canal. Instead of a one-day festival, a menu of festival activities (dependent on Covid-19) will be run including the production of a celebration pack (promoting virtual access to the waterways and increasing awareness of its 200 year history), access to taster water sports, health and well-being walks, water safety sessions, on board boating sessions, boat trips and planting events. Funding to contribute towards the celebration pack, water events run by the Islington Boat Club and online events (e.g. filming and publicity).	Regent's Canal, Graham St, N1	6 to 30 September 2020	Local residents, but focussed on the most disadvantaged, including residents from local estates in St Peter's and Bunhill wards who don't currently access the canal	2,000 to 2,500 Islington residents (including online)	900	24,000	£18,000 Canal & River Trust (licencing, infrastructure, H&S, insurance & project admin), £2,500 LBI Community Festivals Fund, £2,000 tbc sponsors	The amount requested is £1,500 from 2 wards (£750 per ward).
Canonbury / St Peters	John Woolf / Clare Jeapes / Nick Wayne / Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	The Garden Classroom	A storage space to support TGC's activities across Islington. This project will involve redecorating and installing H & S compliant shelving and storage into an underused council building in Basire Street Park which will enable TGC to have larger storage for its resources. TGC equipment is currently being stored in the Graham Street Park park building so this project will also enable the Friends of Graham St Pk (FROGGS) to store their own equipment and deliver more activities in the park. Funding to pay for a contractor to carry out the work and a contribution to storage boxes.	Basire Street Park N1 (which borders on St Peters and Canonbury wards)	June to August 2020, so that TGC can use the building from 1 Sept 2020 onwards	Residents from at least 8 Islington wards, this group delivers across Islington	4,000+ Islington residents	3,060	3,210	£150 The Garden Classroom (staff time)	

NEW PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

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Canonbury/ Tollington	John Woolf / Clare Jeapes / Nick Wayne / Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	Yes Outdoors	Break the Cycle – Fixing Bikes, Changing Lives - an opportunity for disadvantaged young people in Islington to take part in a bicycle maintenance course combined with mentoring support to improve their life chances. 2 programmes will be run at each venue, each programme having 6 sessions which are 2 hours long (each programme will have 8 places for young people). 24 sessions will be run in total. Due to donating over 50 bicycles to key workers at north London hospitals and other bicycles to Brickworks Food Bank to support food deliveries, their stock of bicycle parts is depleted. Funding to pay for two staff, extra tools to prevent sharing, bike parts and transportation costs.	Rose Bowl Youth Centre and Brickworks Community Centre (both have large outdoor areas so they can operate safely)	20 July to 31 August 2020 (summer holidays), project is flexible if needed	Disadvantaged young people aged 12 to 16 years from Islington	32 - 16 from Canonbury, 16 from Tollington	3,000	3,000	Not applicable	
Page 13				Online or Old Finsbury Town Hall (Rosebery Ave) and City and Islington College (444 Camden Rd)	1 July to 31 August 2020, may change depending on Covid-19 guidelines and will adjust dates if needed	Young people from BME communities aged 12 to 25 years	915 (15 young people, 400 in audience, 500 online)	2,000	3,876	£1,376 private donations (costumes, admin costs, volunteers), £500 in kind support (filming equipment)	
Clerkenwell	Kadeema Woodbyrne	Artistry Youth Dance	'Legacy' - a project which aims to develop dance, performance, and digital film skills amongst a group of young people from youth dance company, Artistry Youth Dance, where they will create a digital performance piece with a professional choreographer and film maker. Funding to pay for the fees of a choreographer and film director for 20 hours.								
Clerkenwell	Matt Nathan	Singalong Songs CIC	Mrs H and the Singalong Band's online adventures' - two interactive Zoom Christmas concerts aimed at families who will be encouraged to sing and make music (and which may become live if possible). Funding to pay for the six band members, technical support for the set up and a host person to welcome / mute and unmute and ensure it is as interactive as possible.	11 s Block Peabody Buildings Chequer St and /or Exmouth Market Centre	December 2020	Households drawn from all over Islington	250 people per concert	1,320	1,320	Not applicable	The amount requested for a larger project running weekly online events for 4 months is £2,280.99 (with an overall project cost of £22k).

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Finsbury Park	Michael O'Sullivan	Finsbury Park Trust (Finsbury Park Mutual Aid)	Supporting the work of Finsbury Park Mutual Aid (FPMA) who are volunteering support for neighbours during the Covid-19 outbreak working with food projects at Muslim Welfare House and Andover Community Centre. It wishes to continue and deepen its grassroots response to the Covid-19 crisis, continuing to support the community through information sharing, food and medicine deliveries, hot food provision and social interaction opportunities. It also wishes to manage an emergency fund to support the purchase of necessities not provided by food projects, e.g. cleaning and sanitary products, children's clothes, etc. They also support people to apply for benefits and run a face mask making project. Funding to contribute towards a £500 emergency fund, website rental and design, mask making materials, printing and postage costs, volunteer expenses, rental of a Zoom account for a year and bank charges.	No single address - FPMA is coordinated by a team of volunteer coordinators from their homes around the ward (Finsbury Park Trust will manage)	July 2020 to February 2021	Local residents struggling with poverty, focussing on the most marginalised and discriminated against sections of the community	500	1,500	1,995	£495 FPMA through fundraising	
Finsbury Park	Michael O'Sullivan	Jannaty Women's Social Society	The final stage of the design and launch of a website which will enable the group to have online presence and visibility. The website will allow visitors to the site to donate money or volunteer their time. There will also be a dedicated section for Jannaty's Charity Boutique which will generate unrestricted income to support the group's activities. Funding to pay a company to carry out the work.	Not applicable	1 January to 31 July 2020	All users, members, supporters, funders and the larger community	500+	500	600	£100 Jannaty Charity Boutique	
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan	Jannaty Women's Social Society	Making face coverings for Islington residents and students. Over 500 face coverings have been made and distributed already and more are being asked for. Once made, the face coverings will be stored for three days before being packaged and given to recipients. Funding to pay for fabric, six volunteers, thread, sewing machine maintenance, needles and bags.	225-229 Seven Sisters Road	October to December 2020 - when funding is confirmed, fabric will be ordered	Available to all who need them	500 to 1,000	1,642.72	1,642.72	Not applicable	

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Finsbury Park / Highbury East / Highbury West / Hillrise / Holloway / Junction / Mildmay / St Georges / Tollington	All councillors of Highbury East, Highbury West, St Georges & Tollington / Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh /Michelline Ngongo / Marian Spall / Rakhia Ismail / Janet Burgess / Sheila Chapman / Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay	Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	Food hampers and additional food support for isolated vulnerable people at Christmas time. The organisation has been working at the forefront of the emergency food provision during the pandemic and has become even more aware of ongoing food poverty through their Food Distribution Hub. Welfare Checks carried out by the project coordinator will include asking clients if they are interested in receiving a hamper as well as assessing who needs help and providing social interaction in the run-up to Christmas. Funding to pay for 100 hampers and a project co-ordinator for 7.5 days.	Hampers will be delivered to all 9 of the wards being applied to	1 October to 31 December 2020 including preparation - hampers to be delivered between 1 and 24 December 2020	Isolated people in Islington who are fearful of going out in society, including refugees, migrants, those with mental health issues as well as older people	100 Islington residents plus 12 volunteers at least 8 people from each of the 9 wards	2,166	2,250	£200 in kind volunteer time for packing hampers, £360 in kind volunteer time for delivering hampers	The amount requested from 9 wards is £2,250 (£250 per ward).
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Finsbury Park / Highbury West	Asima Shaikh / Theresa Debono / Roulin Khondoker / Andy Hull	Wu Shi Taiji Quan and Qi Gong Association (Seven Heavens)	Sit, Stand. Walk and Talk (SSWT) will provide gentle exercise (Taiji Quan) and meditation (Qi Gong) classes for older vulnerable people aimed at improving their mental and physical health and fall prevention. Two free to access classes per week will be held - one will be online and the other one will be onsite. The onsite one has been risk assessed and will be held when fitness centres can reopen. Funding to pay for 28 classes (14 weeks) (instructor fees, studio rental, admin (including set up of 'Covid-secure' studio classes and online classes)).	20 Blackstock Road	August 2020 to August 2021, two one-hour sessions per week	Older people over 60 years, many of whom suffer with poor health, chronic conditions and social isolation	40 (20 from Islington)	2,100	2,600	£500 private donation	The group will self fund pre-recorded online classes, which they will distribute throughout Islington to extend their reach. These will promote the live online classes /studio classes.
Finsbury Park / Highbury West	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Theresa Debono / Roulin Khondoker / Andy Hull /	Finsbury Park Mosque	To provide the equipment, procedures and training in order to open the building safely to the public from 13th July in keeping with Covid-19 government guidance. The mosque will open only for the daily congregational prayers and Friday prayer and hundreds are expected to attend daily. Funding to pay for equipment and materials (sanitising , thermometers, number counters, PPE (masks, gloves, disposable mats) First Aid kits and signage), a Covid-19 officer for 3 and a half months, a company who advised and carried out a H&S and risk assessment, and volunteers who will clean and manage social distancing.	7-11 St. Thomas's Road	13 July to 31 October 2020	The local Muslim community in Islington, most of whom are from Highbury West, Finsbury Park, Holloway and Tollington wards	120 Islington residents	4,000	4,000	Not applicable	

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Finsbury Park / Holloway / Tollington	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Diarmaid Ward / Rakhia Ismail / Paul Smith / Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	MEWSO (Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation)	Supporting 30 older women of a Middle Eastern background to maintain a sense of community belonging and prevent mental health complications in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic by organising 2 online IT and communications workshops, regular WhatsApp Covid-19 myth busters and fact-checked updates, 12 online healthy cooking classes and 12 online arts and crafts sessions. Funding to pay for a project co-ordinator for 24 weeks, facilitators for the arts and crafts and healthy cooking sessions and social media and communications.	Online delivery	15 July 2020 to 15 January 2021 (will be able to start earlier in order to support service users as soon as possible)	Older women of a Middle Eastern background mainly from Finsbury Park	20 from Finsbury Park, 5 from Tollington, 5 from Holloway	1,352	1,352	Not applicable	
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Finsbury Park / St Marys	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Angela Picknell / Nurullah Turan	Film Skool Deluxe	A five week filmmaking course for 35 young people aged 11 to 18 providing an opportunity to make professional short films and have them screened in a cinema. The risk assessed course consists of 5 weekly sessions lasting 75 minutes over a 5 week period. Following these sessions, there will 2 filming weekends in November, an editing weekend in December with the premiere screening in January 2021. Funding to pay for the hire of three professional filmmakers for two weeks, hire of filmmaking equipment, editing, printing, publicity and classroom hire.	Pooles Park Primary School, Lennox Rd (course location)	September 2020 to January 2021	Young people aged 11 to 18 from low income backgrounds in Finsbury Park and St Mary's wards, particularly from the British Asian community	35 young people (15 from Finsbury Park, 15 from St Marys - St Mary Magdalene School)	1,600	3,570	£600 Mayfair Curzon cinema (screening)	The amount requested from 2 wards is £2,970 (£1,485 per ward).
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	Supporting Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot women living in Finsbury Park and Tollington who are isolated due to Covid-19 through a telephone based qualified advice service, in community languages, to improve mental health, reduce loneliness and provide support around welfare issues, employment and domestic violence. Most of the women are over 50 years old, have health issues, low incomes, are isolated and speak little or no English. Some also suffer from domestic violence and do not go out to get food or collect prescriptions. Funding to pay for an advice worker for 26 weeks and public liability insurance.	Remotely and Durham Road Community Rooms, Under 32-43 Bolton Walk, Durham Road	1 April to 30 September 2020 (advice sessions run once a week for a total of 2 hours)	Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot women	45 from Islington	1,000	1,000	Not applicable	

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Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Roulin Khondoker / Andy Hull	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust	Elizabeth House Food Hub, working with up to 35 volunteers mainly from the Highbury Mutual Aid Group, to distribute essential food and care items to vulnerable and isolated community members on a weekly basis. In 15 weeks, they have distributed 1,687 food and care parcels to 492 vulnerable people. Despite the easing of lockdown, food support, befriending and wellbeing activities are still in demand and they anticipate that the need is likely to grow over the coming months. Funding to contribute towards 13 weeks of costs (food and care supplies, a community co-ordinator, management, room usage and volunteer expenses).	Weekly food distribution in Highbury West and Highbury East from Elizabeth House	July to September 2020	60% older person households, 25% families, 10% single parents	200+ Islington residents (Highbury East, Highbury West and Finsbury Park)	1,000	15,301	£1,170 HVBT (in-kind), £6,000 The National Lottery, £1,250 Gunners Fund, £2,500 LHC Community Benefit Fund	
Page 17	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Choices	A digital outreach support and advice service to reduce isolation and promote good mental, physical, and financial health. This group normally provides office based services but is now delivering outreach and remote services offering practical support with items such as topping up fuel cards, arranging delivery of essentials and digital support. Funding to pay for the upgrading of IT equipment so that volunteer advisors can communicate with isolated residents remotely (two laptops and dongles), the wages of a counsellor and expenses for two volunteers.	Remotely or Caxton House Community Centre	25 May to 23 November 2020	Targetting the most vulnerable who are isolated and anxious and those who most need food and emotional support	100 Hillrise residents	2,170	2,170	Not applicable	
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Elthorne Pride	'The World on our Table', a virtual celebration to mark Elthorne Pride's International Big Lunch through film and the distribution of food tasters to residents. Volunteers would distribute 250 international world food tasters to residents who are unable to leave their home due to Covid-19 and residents who attend their weekly food hall. A short film will be launched at the end of the celebration. Funding to pay for the ingredients for the world food tasters and packaging, room hire, distribution equipment hire and PPE, a H&S food preparation advisor and recyclable bags.	St John's Community Centre, Holland Walk	June to August 2020, the project will remain flexible in its delivery due to Covid-19	Hillrise residents	250	2,895	4,520	£1,625 Elthorne Pride (project management, film editing equipment hire and launch, marketing and delivery, volunteer reimbursement)	

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Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association	Provision of a cream tea at home for older people to help reduce the anxiety and stress caused by the pandemic / shielding. The older people's officer and volunteers will deliver the prepacked cream tea with a quiz and activity pack. Funding to pay for the cream tea and baskets, quiz and activity packs, volunteer expenses and the printing of a newsletter to provide information about the food hub, what support they can get to help with coming out of shielding, etc.	Delivered from Hornsey Lane Estate to individual addresses in Islington	Sunday 13 September 2020	Older Hillrise residents already engaged through the organisation's telephone befriending scheme	99	600	730	£130 donations	
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Caxton House Community Centre	Provision of pre-weighed food kits for simple recipes with full colour instructions and a video for those with digital access, to encourage residents to cook more at home, helping them to make healthier choices. During lockdown they delivered 100+ food parcels and 120+ pre-cooked meals to residents each week for 12 weeks. This food delivery support highlighted that many residents do not cook at home for various reasons. Funding to pay for pre-weighed ingredients for cooking kits, packaging, starter packs of basic ingredients and printed recipe cards.	Caxton House Community Centre, 129 St John's Way	14 November 2020 to 13 March 2021	Open to all but residents in food poverty or who have limited cooking facilities will be prioritised	75+ residents	1,452.50	4,854.50	£2,360 Caxton House (space hire, video work and posting online, flyer distribution), £1,042 Caxton House / National Lottery (tutor for cooking to prepare meals, design/print of flyers, volunteers)	
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	The Hive Food Bank	A small independent volunteer run food bank which uses a voucher based referral scheme enabling referrals from GPs, schools and other local organisations. The three most frequently reported reasons visitors are referred to them are problems with benefits, ill health and low income and unemployment. Funding to pay for 25 single food parcels a week over a two month period.	St Mary's Church, Hornsey Rise, Ashley Road	30 November 2020 to 30 January 2021	Open to all experiencing food poverty	200	2,400	2,400	Not applicable	

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Hillrise / Junction	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall / Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Sheila Chapman	ArchWay With Words	Archway With Words Online (AWWW2020), an online adaptation of the annual festival including presentations and interviews with authors and speciality speakers, presentations of dramatic and poetic works plus interactive creative/literary activities and an online platform for creative writing. Funding to pay for a website and technology upgrade, fees for authors, presenters and practitioners and promotional costs.	Online via Zoom	15 to 21 October 2020	Primarily residents from Hillrise and Junction wards	1,000+ (500 from Hillrise, 500 from Junction)	3,000	5,000	£2,000 tbc private sponsorship	
Page 19 Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Sheila Chapman	Hargrave Hall Community Association	Upgrade the existing kitchen into a functional unit so they can expand to provide a catering service in conjunction with the existing food project. They are currently transitioning from hire only to collaborating with user groups and local businesses to provide courses and social spaces for the local community. Phase 2 will include an under 5's 'Healthy Life' course and lunch, a breakfast club for the socially isolated, a lunch club for older people and a men's evening club for local isolated men. Funding to contribute towards the cost of installing a community kitchen on their lower floor (Phase 1).	Hargrave Hall Community Centre, Hargrave Road	July 2020 to January 2021 (kitchen installation - phase 1), January 2021 to January 2022 (phase 2)	80% of beneficiaries from Junction and St Georges (most from Junction)	500 (400 from Islington)	250	10,772	£10,000 National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund	
Junction / St Georges	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Sheila Chapman / Gulcin Ozdemir / Satnam Gill / Tricia Clarke	SLOW (Surviving the Loss of Your World)	A contribution to the annual running costs of this group that provides support for bereaved parents and siblings and advice for professionals working with bereaved families. Over a year, the group runs 89 support groups and 4 sibling workshops. These will continue to be held via videoconferencing if the lockdown continues. Funding to contribute towards sessional expenses for facilitators, business services and administration, clinical supervision for facilitators, training, stationery, design/print of publicity and IT expenses.	78 daytime Weekly Support Meetings at St George and All Saints Church, 11 Monthly Support Meetings at Calcott Community Centre, Palmer Estate, Cathcart Hill	August 2020 to July 2021	Bereaved parents and siblings and groups benefitting from SLOW's professional outreach (health and social care professionals and local community groups)	To date (over the last 12 years) 430+ members, a further 50-70 new members in 2020, 50% of beneficiaries live or work in Islington	3,500	50,814 (for Islington only)	£39,295 secured, £8,000 tbc from at least 12 different funding sources (including LIF and LBI Community Chest)	

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Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Santiago Bell-Bradford	Healthy Generations on behalf of Mildmay Extra Care Units (Notting Hill Genesis)	50 weekly one hour Music and Movement Classes (in person or via Zoom) for older people at 2 Mildmay Extra Care Units over a year. These residents have been particularly socially isolated during the pandemic with some not leaving their apartment at all, no social events or group activities taking place and no visitors being allowed. Funding to pay for the musician leading the sessions.	73 Mildmay Street and 20-26 Mildmay Park	August 2020 to July 2021	Older people at Mildmay Extra Care with a wide range of physical and mental health issues	100	2,000	2,000	Not applicable	
St Marys	Angela Picknell / Nurullah Turan	The Margins Project	To provide people who experience homelessness or are vulnerably housed with basic mobiles so communication can be maintained with those who have been rehoused in hotels and so that they can benefit from the Margins Housing and Benefits Advice and Well-Being support. Funding to pay for 25 basic mobile phones and a contribution towards management and administration.	Margins, Union Chapel, 19b Compton Terrace	June to November 2020, flexible with start and end date	Homeless residents from all over Islington, with project co-ordinated from St Marys	25	600	600	Not applicable	
St Peters	Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	The Spitz Charitable Trust	Deep-healing, outdoor music events for the elderly and vulnerable residents at Bridgeside Lodge, in order to enhance well-being, lessen anxiety and isolation, and comfort through bereavement. Funding to pay for the costs of one musician for 10 garden sessions over the summer.	Bridgeside Lodge Care Home, 61 Wharf Rd	6 July to 2 October 2020	Older and vulnerable care home residents, the care staff and their families	300 from Islington	1,600	11,725	£10,125 Arts Council England	
St Peters	Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	Islington Boat Club	Following the Covid-19 pandemic, provision of 4 Family days whereby the most vulnerable members of the local community can be re-engaged and given safe opportunities to reconnect with both the water and other local residents. To meet government social distancing guidelines, places will be pre-booked and the days will consist of small groups of kayaking and narrowboat trips for family / household groups. Funding to pay for instructor / coaches fees, preparation/ management, operational overheads, promotion / advertising and cleaning.	Islington Boat Club, 16-34 Graham Street	Following the Covid-19 pandemic - September 2020 to April 2021, but dependent on government guidelines	Majority from St Peter's ward but open to all Islington residents	192	2,000	3,200	Not applicable	The amount requested is £3,200.

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St Peters	Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	Arc Community Space CIC	Delivering emergency food supplies to local residents experiencing food poverty and/ or unable to access food during lockdown. Due to donations of food and funds raised through quizzes and their cafe and other match funding, they need to raise a shortfall of £10 per food delivery / hamper (each hamper costs £40 and provides food for a week). 70 volunteers carry out the food deliveries 3 times a week. Funding to contribute towards food delivery costs for 8 weeks or 360 hampers (food, the costs of a volunteer co-ordinator and PPE for volunteers).	Food deliveries to St Peter's ward from Arc Community Space	14 July to 8 September 2020	360 hampers will be delivered to 80 deprived households of 3 or more in St Peter's	240	2,701.02	5,250	£1,250 Gunners Fund	The amount requested is £4,000.
St Peters	Alice Clarke-Perry	MerryGoRound	MerryGoRound, who collect donations of quality second hand children's clothes, shoes and books to gift for free as bundles to local families in need. Each bundle has enough clothing for one child for a week. Families are referred to them by a professional who knows their circumstances well, e.g. a teacher or pastoral care worker, social worker, GP, etc. Funding to pay for costs for a year for the storage, paper mailing bags for bundling up items and insurance.	St James Hall, 42 Packington St (while closed to the public), looking into alternative storage for when it reopens	September 2020 to August 2021, weekly or fortnightly donation drop off and sorting sessions	All local low income families, but they expect many referrals from Packington Children's Centre and the 5 schools in the ward	240 children over a year (480 assuming each child has one parent / carer)	2,519.64	2,519.64	Not applicable	
St Peters	Vivien Cutler	AiRing CIC	Pack*Art', a participatory arts programme, aims to build connections across the newly developed Packington Estate and with its neighbours, to highlight lived experience of the place, and to develop creative assets of people and place. Continuation of community art activities on the Packington Estate (which have been taking place for the last two years) by establishing a community art panel made up of local residents who will be paid to brainstorm and champion the ongoing arts programme. This panel will work with AiR to support four young local BME artists to undertake local research residencies. All local residents can apply for the community panel and take part in resident artist activities and workshops. Funding to pay for public activity / workshop costs, marketing and publicity and artist materials.	Packington Estate and surrounding streets and public spaces, focussing on local schools and community groups including older people at the Arc and St James Church	October 2020 to May 2021	4 artists, 5 residents as community panel members, 50 residents as workshop/activity participants, 300 in the audience	300	1,000	17,050	£15,050 Hyde, £1,000 Arts Council England	

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Tollington	Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	St Saviour's Church	Transforming an urban churchyard into a 1000 square metre community garden, offering a quiet space for locals and fun activities for children, including an afterschool club and play area. This garden will be open to all local residents. The space will also be used for a weekly after-school club mainly for two local primary schools when the work is completed - St Mark's C of E Primary School and Duncombe Primary School. They have completed Phase 1 of the garden project (cleared, levelled and re-grassed the grass area). Phase 2 will begin in the Autumn where they will lay materials for paths, create hedge rows, plant trees and other shrubs and erect fences, ready for next summer (2021). Funding to pay for a hedgerow.	79 Hanley Road	Autumn 2020 to Summer 2021	Local residents, churchgoers (100 people regularly), event attendees (choir group, Guy Fawkes) From Summer 2021, local children (summer clubs / after-school clubs)	200	2,646	9,646	£2,000 tbc Tesco Bags of Help, £5,000 tbc St Saviour's congregation fundraising	

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Mildmay	Joe Caluori / Santiago Bell-Bradford	KMEWO (Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation)	The new delivery will be online or e-learning. 2 ICT Beginners courses (each lasting 8 weeks), a 10 week ESOL Entry 1-3 course, 3 workshops on Domestic Violence and additional events to support women, e.g. International Women's Day. Funding to contribute towards tablets and laptops, 10 weeks of ESOL tutor costs, 8 weeks of costs for 2 ICT tutors and a project co-ordinator.	IMECE, 2 Newington Green Road and Minik Kardes Children's Centre, Balls Pond Road	September 2020 to December 2020	Mainly Kurdish and Middle Eastern women from Mildmay ward	32 to 35	3,066	3,386	£320 in kind from KMEWO (resources, photocopying, printing, refreshments, office rent)	£3,066 originally awarded in February 2020 for 10 weekly ESOL classes, 2 ICT / Employability courses and 2 sessions on domestic abuse / FGM at IMECE and Minik Kardes from March to December 2020. Project change to online delivery agreed for the whole grant.

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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
Barnsbury	Mouna Hamitouche	The Liliesleaf Trust UK	<p>Five community engagement events run by the Penton Street Centre of Memory & Learning using the heritage of the anti-apartheid movement and the ANC in Islington reminding us how solidarity and local activism contributed to positive global social change. Funding to pay for six interns (time, travel expenses, food and refreshments), insurance, a gazebo and tables and benches.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Online community engagement events, e.g. film screenings, exhibitions, Zoom talks, on the history of 28 Penton Street (the former London HQ of the African National Congress) and its role in the South African liberation struggle / anti apartheid movement and / or facilitated garden designing and innovation sessions for 28 Penton Street that people can take part in virtually.</p> <p>At least six disadvantaged people referred by local BAME groups and the council youth apprenticeship scheme will support these events as interns.</p>	<p>4 pop up stalls at Chapel Market and one event at Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Online community engagement events including activities for two LBI departments (Open City's Open House and Black History Month)</p>	September to December 2020, but dates are to be confirmed due to Covid-19	Local BAME and community groups, NEETs (LBI apprenticeship scheme), school, Chapel Market visitors (£200K+ monthly footfall)	1,500+	1,222	3,922	£1,700 Anglo American Chairman's Charitable Fund, £1,000 tbc Greater London Authority	<p>£1.222 originally awarded in April 2020 for pop up stalls at Chapel Market and an event at EGA School from June to December 2020. Covid-19 safe measures have been outlined if the in person events go ahead. An online option has been included to allow for Covid-19 restrictions at the time of delivery.</p> <p>Potential project change to online delivery agreed for the whole grant.</p>
Finsbury Park	Gary Heather	Friends of Pooles Park Primary School	Opening of the garden on six occasions for volunteering events so that the community can access the garden and help with the ongoing essential maintenance and development of the green space and Environment Project. Funding to pay for food and drink for the volunteers at the six events.	Pooles Park Primary School's Community Garden, Lennox Road	6 occasions between September 2020 and July 2021	Primarily Finsbury Park ward residents	120	300	300	Not applicable	<p>£300 originally awarded in April 2020 to pay for food and drink for a Garden Festival at the school on 20 June 2020.</p> <p>Project change agreed for the whole grant.</p>

GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

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
Page 24 Caledonian / Highbury East / Junction / St Mary's	Paul Convery / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran / Osh Gantly / Sue Lukes / Caroline Russell / Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Sheila Chapman / Nurullah Turan	The Unity Project (TUP)	The new delivery will be done remotely, with volunteers liaising with applicants online. Weekly casework sessions assisting migrant families living in Islington who are facing abject poverty and/or homelessness as a result of having 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF). Funding to pay for a caseworker and supervisor, overheads/running costs, legal advice, volunteer expenses and regular training.	Due to Covid-19 restrictions, delivery of the project will be done remotely	May 2020 to May 2021	Islington families with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) who are facing poverty and/or homelessness	5 families (2 from Highbury East, 1 from Caledonian, 1 from Junction, 1 from St Marys)	2,999.54	70,000	£45,000 grant funding secured, £12,000 tbc grant funding, £4,000 tbc community fundraising / donations	£2,999.54 originally awarded in April 2020 for weekly casework sessions for NRPF families from 4 wards at New Unity in Upper Street. There is a slight change to the budget - food and travel costs are reallocated to staff costs instead due to the remote delivery. Project change to remote delivery 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
Allocated amount reported to VCS Committee on 7 July 2020:	£3,000
Balance remaining:	£229,794
Proposals agreed under delegated approval from 14 July to 6 October 2020:	£80,474
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2020-21:	£149,320

2020-21 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£10,850
Bunhill	£9,513
Caledonian	£11,689
Canonbury	£11,280
Clerkenwell	£6,749
Finsbury Park	£6,387
Highbury East	£14,606
Highbury West	£8,980
Hillrise	£3,165
Holloway	£11,648
Junction	£10,335
Mildmay	£8,671
St George's	£12,355
St Mary's	£12,694
St Peter's	£2,227
Tollington	£8,170

£149,320**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

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POSTPONEMENTS REPORTED TO HOUSING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Original Timescale	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Month / Year awarded funding
Barnsbury	Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury	Awesome Elm CIC - Barnard Park Adventure Playground (summer camping trip)	Four day summer residential on a campsite for 15 to 30 disadvantaged young people aged 6 to 13.	August 2020	822.48	Apr-20
Clerkenwell	Kadeema Woodbyrne	Artistry Youth Dance	Legacy' – a youth dance and digital film project	1 July to 31 August 2020	2,000	Jul-20
Finsbury Park	Michael O'Sullivan	Finsbury Park Trust	To convert underused space in the back yard into a herbal garden	April to May 2020	400	Apr-20
Highbury East	Osh Gantly / Sue Lukes / Caroline Russell	Fieldway Crescent Play Street	Costs to run a Weekly Play Street in Fieldway Crescent for a year (50 weeks)	April 2020 to April 2021	1,880	Apr-20
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)	Three sessions per week from March to December 2020	910	Feb-20
Hillrise	Micheline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	New Orleans Gardening Club (prev New Orleans Foodgrowing and Gardening Club)	Over fifties and carers spring get together following the replenishment of the garden and open spaces on the estate.	April or May 2020 (this is not original date but is last date given before Covid-19)	460	Apr-18
Hillrise / Junction	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall / Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Sheila Chapman	ArchWay With Words	Archway With Words Online (AWWW2020), an online adaptation of the annual festival	15 to 21 October 2020	3,000	Jul-20
Junction	Janet Burgess / Kaya Comer-Schwartz / Sheila Chapman	Whittington Park Community Association	Contribution to a building project to transform two halls into modern, multi-use spaces.	May 2020 to February 2021	6,020	Apr-20
St Peters	Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	Galbur Foundation	Hijabi Footy Fun, a football programme for Muslim girls at City of London Academy	19 January to 19 July 2020 (excluding Ramadan)	1,000	Apr-20
St Peters	Martin Klute	Angel Community Canal Boat Trust	To provide female survivors of domestic violence/sexual abuse and their children with a relaxing, safe and therapeutic experience on a canal boat	April 2020 to March 2021	1,000	Apr-20

POSTPONEMENTS REPORTED TO HOUSING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Original Timescale	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Month / Year awarded funding
St Peters	Martin Klute	LBI Greenspace ('Clean up after your dog' sign on Rheidol Green / dog control signage)	Clean up after your dog' signage to help deter anti social behaviour and help enforce controls.	July to September 2020	250	Apr-20
Tollington	Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	Hanley Crouch Community Association (family wellness day)	Family health and wellbeing event for the residents and users in the local estates (Holly Park and Ilex House) and the surrounding areas.	26 July 2020	768.71	Apr-20
Tollington	Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	St Mark's CE Primary School	Drop in Lunchtime and After School Nature / Food growing Clubs	April 2020 to February 2021 (39 weeks)	1,000	Apr-20
Tollington	Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	Friends of Wray Crescent Open Space	Continuing the planting and development of foods , introduction of native wildlife flowers and addition of shrubs.	Funding to be spent in May 2020, weekly two hour workshops from May 2020 to May 2021	580	Apr-20



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Wards
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	3 November 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 4 October 2020).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve DRR awards to seven organisations (eight hereditaments) listed at appendix 2 from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, as these have met 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 ambitions 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 117 organisations occupying 144 hereditaments. The total in relief awarded to date is £969,063.58 with a cost to Islington Council of £307,378.28 in foregone income for this financial year (20/21).

3.7 For the latest round of DRR (which closed on 4 October 2020) applications were received from **eight organisations for seven hereditaments**. These applications were assessed in line with the criteria detailed in the Council's DRR Policy 2020-23 (see appendix 1). Three applications received did not meet the eligibility criteria and have not been put forward.

4. Discretionary Rate Relief Award Recommendations

4.1 Following assessment, DRR is recommended to eight **organisations occupying seven 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 to 31 March 2023. Approvals are broken down into the following categories:

	Total Relief Awarded (2020/21)	Total Cost to LBI (2020/21)
Voluntary and Community Organisations	£88,787.61	£26,636.28
Grand Total	£88,787.61	£26,636.28

4.2 All applications being recommended for approval are from voluntary and community sector organisations, totalling £88,787.61 in relief awarded and £26,636.28 in foregone income for the council in this round.

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 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.

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.

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 and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

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

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 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 to 31 March 2023

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



Executive Member for Community Development

Date:

Report Author: Shabana Aslam
Tel: 020 7527 3848
Email: Shabana.Aslam@Islington.gov.uk

Financial Implications Author: Khogen Sutradhar
Tel: 020 7527 2499
Email: Khogen.Sutradhar@islington.gov.uk

Legal Implications Author: Sonal Mistry
Tel: 020 7527 3833
Email: Sonal.Mistry@islington.gov.uk

Environmental Implications Author: James Wilson
Tel: 020 7527 2349
Email: James.Wilson@islington.gov.uk

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 2 Council
The Bomb Factory Art Foundation	Unit 2, Boothby road entrance, 9-15 Elthorne Road, N194AJ	VCS	£3,251.20	£975.36
IMECE WOMENS CENTRE	Ground Floor 2 Newington Green Rd. London, N1 4RB	VCS	£1,612.80	£483.84
IMECE WOMENS CENTRE	Ground Floor 2 Newington Green Rd. London, N1 4RB	VCS	£1,331.20	£399.36
K&M McLoughlin Decorating Schools LTD	30 Brewery Road, Islington, N7 9NH	VCS	£30,976.00	£9,292.80
Refugee Therapy Centre	1A Leeds Place, London, N4 3RA	VCS	£7,660.80	£2,298.24
Rhythms of Life	158-160 Pentonville Road London, N1 9JL	VCS	£1,714.81	£514.44
Islington Law Centre	38 Devonian Road, London N1 8JH	VCS	£8,724.80	£2,617.44
Voluntary Action Islington	200a Pentonville Road London N1 9JP	VCS	£33,516.00	£10,054.80
Total			£88,787.61	£26,636.28

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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