



**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 at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **20 September 2021 at 6:30pm.**

Enquiries to : Mary Green
Tel : (020) 7527 3005
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Despatched : 9 September 2021

Membership

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz (Chair)
Councillor Una O'Halloran
Councillor Michelline Safi-Ngongo
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 Jason Jackson
Councillor Anjna Khurana

Quorum: is 2 Councillors



A. Formal items

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declaration of substitute members
3. Declarations of interest

If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest* in an item of business:

- if it is not yet on the council's register, you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;
- you may choose to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency.

In both the above cases, you must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If you have a personal interest in an item of business and you intend to speak or vote on the item you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you may participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

- *(a) Employment, etc - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.
- (c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) Licences- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Securities - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to **all** members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 4

B. Matters for decision

1. Local Initiatives Fund awards 5 - 24
2. Discretionary rate relief awards 25 - 42

C. Urgent non-exempt matters

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

D. Exclusion of press and public

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

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

F. Urgent Exempt Matters

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

The next meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is scheduled for
22 November 2021

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London Borough of Islington

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 6 July 2021

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held in the Council Chamber, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 6 July 2021 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Una O'Halloran, Michelline Safi-Ngongo and Diarmaid Ward

Councillor observer: Jason Jackson

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

98 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Received from Councillors Janet Burgess MBE and Anjna Khurana.

99 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None.

100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None.

101 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them

102 MEMBERSHIP, TERMS OF REFERENCE AND DATES OF MEETINGS OF THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE IN 2021/22 (Item A5)

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee, appointed by the Executive on 27 May 2021, its terms of reference and dates of meetings for the municipal year 2021/22, as set out at Appendix A of the report of the Acting Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer, be noted.

Reasons for decision

To inform members of the remit of the Committee

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

103

LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)

RESOLVED:

(a) To continue with delegated authority to the Fairer Together Director, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Development, to make decisions which are related to Covid responses in the community and also for events which will take place in the short term, to prevent delays to decisions and funding being allocated and with due regard to the Government road map and any possible changes to this.

(b) To resort back to 3 rounds per year for Local Initiative Funding, with decisions which are outside of the scope detailed in resolution (a) above being considered by the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee for approval. This will mean that the application deadlines for the next two rounds for this financial year will be in early September (agreed by November 2021 VCS Committee) and late December 2021 or early January 2022 (agreed by March 2022 VCS Committee).

(c) That funding be awarded for events/gatherings with the following conditions:

- Organisations running large open events to contact the Safety Advisory Group, have a lead event safety manager and a comprehensive risk assessment completed.
 - If activities were not permitted due to government guidance, the event must be cancelled but the organisation(s) may hold the funding allocation until such time as the event can run, including carrying funding over to the next financial year.
- Organisations will also be given the opportunity to delay events or change the use of the project funding
- Government guidelines on social distancing must not be breached and event organisers must follow any guidance in place at the time.
 - For events awarded funding, the funding to be released no earlier than the month before the event, to allow for essential checks with the organisation having real time information on the roadmap and restrictions.

(d) That the LIF awards approved under delegated authority by the Corporate Director of Housing, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Development, on 23 March and 17 May 2021 and set out in appendix A to the report, be noted.

Reasons for decision

The Local Initiatives Fund was an effective way of addressing local priorities and provided a mechanism for Ward councillors to support small projects which might otherwise not be funded. Proposals submitted for approval represented a wide range of activity and would deliver significant benefit to local communities.

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

104

VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAMME REVIEWS 2021-2024 (Item B2)

RESOLVED:

(a) That funding of £40,000 per annum, totalling £110,000 over the programme period July 2021 to March 2024, be approved to deliver against the recommendations of a review of capacity-building, as detailed in section 3.6 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development.

(b) That funding of £35,000 per annum, totalling £96,250 over the programme period July 2021 to March 2024, be approved to deliver against the recommendations of a review of volunteering, as detailed in section 3.6 of the report of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development.

(c) That funding of £30,000 per annum, totalling £82,500 over the programme period July 2021 to March 2024, be approved within the Equalities and Cohesion Networks strand to support a disability focussed network, as detailed in section 3.6 of the report of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development.

(d) That funding of £30,000 per annum, totalling £82,500 over the programme period July 2021 to March 2024, be approved to work with Islington's Black Caribbean community, with the aim of developing a programme of capacity-building support to establish a formalised group of community representation, as detailed in section 3.6 of the report of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development. .

Reason for decisions

The VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024 built on the overarching aim of the Council's work with the voluntary and community sector to support the Council priority of making Islington a fairer place and the ambitions for the community through the Fairer Together programme.

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

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FAIRER TOGETHER LOCAL WELLBEING NETWORKS (Item B3)

RESOLVED:

That funding be awarded to Voluntary Action Islington and Octopus Community Network's consortium bid to lead all three Fairer Together Local Wellbeing Networks in the borough, as detailed in appendix 1 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development.

Reason for decision

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

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

106 ISLINGTON COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY CHEST - ROUNDS 2 AND 3 (Item C1)

RESOLVED:

That the funding decisions made by Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC) Panel in relation to the second and third rounds of ICCC grant funding for 2020/21, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be noted.

Reasons for decision

The decisions on grant awards had already been made by ICCC and therefore the report was for the Committee's information only.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None.

107 KEVIN TURNER, VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND EQUALITIES DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

On behalf of the Committee, Councillor Comer-Schwartz congratulated Kevin Turner, the current Voluntary Sector and Equalities Development Manager, on his appointment as a Grants Manager at the Cloudesley Foundation. She thanked him for all of his valuable service to the Council and wished him well for the future.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

CHAIR



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Ward(s)
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	20 September 2021		All

Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt
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SUBJECT: LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 The Local Initiatives Fund (LIF) 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 2021/22 each ward has an allocation of £14,000 to spend on local schemes, with the exception of Bunhill and Clerkenwell who each had 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.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree that the majority of the temporary revised measures detailed in the Executive report of 30 April 2020 be continued. These are detailed at paragraph 4.1.
- 2.2 To continue with delegated authority to the Executive Member for Community Development for changes to the use of previously awarded funding only. New applications will now return to being approved by the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Committee.
- 2.3 To agree that ward budget underspends in 2021/22 exceeding £1,000 per ward can be carried forward to 2022/23.
- 2.4 To agree that the amount that can be approved under delegated authority by the Head of Communities to activity to support Ward Partnership meetings be increased to £1,000.
- 2.5 To note the new LIF awards which have been approved under delegated authority by the Executive Member for Community Development on 21 June and 16 August 2021 (as set out in appendix A). This is for information only.

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 Fairer Together 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 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.
- 3.6 In November 2019, authority was delegated to the Head of Communities, to allocate funding, up to the value of £250, to activity to support Ward Partnership meetings. Awards approved under delegated authority should be reported to the next VCS Committee at which Local Initiatives Fund awards are considered.
- 3.7 In 2021/22, 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 2021/22

- 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.
- Applications received for events that will breach Government guidelines on social distancing will not be accepted.

4.2 In December 2020, £55 was awarded for the cost of the printing of flyers for a Caledonian ward partnership meeting on 9 November 2020. This funding ended up not being costed to the grant budget code by another department so was not drawn down and has therefore been returned to the Caledonian ward budget for reallocation. This amendment to the ward budget is reflected in the budget summary on the last page of Appendix A.

This increases the amount available to allocate in 2021/22 from £242,816 to £242,871.

4.3 Ward councillors have considered 33 applications for funding from 31 applicants since the VCS Committee on 6 July. One application was not recommended for funding by ward councillors leaving a total of 32 applications from 30 applicants recommended by ward councillors. The Executive Member for Community Development agreed all of these under delegated authority on 21 June and 16 August 2021. This leaves £182,089 in the 2021/22 budget.

A list of the organisations approved for funding and the grant award for each organisation is set out in Appendix A. Two organisations are listed twice in Appendix A.

4.4 This agreement under delegated authority is subject to the Fairer Together Partnership Director being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

4.5 13 of the 30 applicants are first time applicants.

4.6 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 reported to this Committee:

- Cllr Anjna Khurana is a trustee of Hanley Crouch Community Association which has been allocated £1,705.56 for monthly health and well-being workshops.
- Cllr Martin Klute will possibly be performing at one of the events Islington Proms are organising, although he will not be receiving any fees for the performance. Islington Proms has been allocated £500 for 8 weekend concerts at St James Church.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial implications:

The Local Initiatives Fund in Financial Year 2021/22 has a total of £284,422 to allocate. This is comprised of an annual budget of £225,000 and a carried forward underspend/unallocated amount of £59,422 from FY20/21. An additional £15,000 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).

Any recommendations for carry forwards of LIF underspends will be subject to yearly reviews of the wider financial needs of the Council. The current earmarked reserves as a consequence of previous financial year's carry forwards are sufficient to meet the funding requirements of this report.

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.

The proposals referred to in this report can be met from budget and reserve allocations from the Local Initiatives Fund. Delays or alterations to LIF projects may increase ward underspends in Financial Year 2022/23.

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:**

Some of the projects funded by the LIF grants have carbon and environmental impacts, including the use of energy, fuel, water, food, materials and printing, while events being funded may create waste or journeys that contribute to transport-related emissions if attendees drive. However, several projects also have positive environmental impacts, including litter picking, tree planting, upcycling of old bikes, production of reusable bags, community food growing, a community tool box that will reduce consumption and the projects that enhance biodiversity and promote nature.

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 (for information only)

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

8 September 2021



Una O'Halloran
Executive Member for Community Development

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NEW PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON 21 JUNE 2021 (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	Fairer Together Comments
Page 11											
	Canonbury	Clare Jeapes / Nick Wayne / John Woolf	Islington Street Associations	Funding for a new organisation that encourages community cohesion by building and sustaining resident-led street associations to make their streets more friendly and supportive, build bridges between ages and races, and encourage residents to play a full part in their communities - social and civic. This project was previously led by Uturn UK CIC and is now going to be led by this new Islington based organisation. Engagement and monthly outreach will be continued with residents across the 3 existing Street Associations (Elmore Street, Elizabeth Avenue and Yeate Street). They also plan to add at least 2 streets to the 3 already in action in the coming months and once the CIO is registered, the senior project worker will begin paving the way for the first new Street Association (on Halliford Street which has 120 households) through socially distanced doorstep visits, leaflets and social media. Funding to pay for the senior project worker, office and admin costs, CIO start-up costs, worker and volunteer expenses and an assistant project worker.	Events at Almorah Road Community Centre alongside safe outdoor activities in LTN areas, indoor events this summer (depending on government guidance)	June 2021 to May 2022	Residents of Elmore Street, Elizabeth Avenue, Yeate Street, Halliford Street and another street near the Almorah Community Centre	Up to 500 households in 2021 and gradually increasing over time	4,000	5,000	£1,000 LIF 2021-22
Highbury West	Theresa Debono / Bashir Ibrahim / Roulin Khondoker	St Thomas Playgroup	To replace the 11 year old rotten wooden climbing frame and the wet pour safety surface that surrounds it. The new frame has to be wooden also due to the church not allowing anything with bright colours or metal but also incorporate all the learning opportunities to encourage gross motor skills, as well as having a quiet sheltered area for children to go and space to have role play scenarios incorporated in their play. Funding to contribute towards the climbing frame and wetpour safety surface.	St Thomas Church Playgroup garden, 75 Monsell Road, N4 2EF	Work in August or September 2021	Young children aged up to 6 years from the playgroup, church and outside groups (Brownies, Rainbows, etc)	26 children on playgroup register each year, many other users	6,000	8,000	£4,000 tbc from Highbury West S106/CIL or LIF	The amount requested is £8,000.

NEW PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON 21 JUNE 2021 (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	Fairer Together Comments
Holloway	Rakhia Ismail / Jason Jackson / Diarmaid Ward	Holloway Ward Safer Neighbourhood Steering Group	To give all residents of Holloway ward a voice in policing priorities to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour in the ward. They aim to increase the participation and representation of residents at the 8 Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel meetings per year (by advertising), have an information stall to attend local community festivals so they can promote community safety, hold 2 youth engagement sessions about crime and safety and hold at least 2 litter-picking events. Funding to pay for stall equipment (gazebo, folding table and chairs), advertising (website, posters, banners, leaflets, etc), refreshments (for 8 public meetings, 2 litter picking sessions and 2 youth engagement sessions), room hire for the 8 public meetings, equipment for activities (litter pickers, bin bags, brooms) and insurance.	Online meetings currently, community centres and parks in Holloway ward	19 July 2021 onwards	17,000 Holloway ward residents	Around 450 to directly benefit (through public meetings and litter picking), advertised to 1,000 residents	1,918.14	1,918.14	Not applicable	
Mildmay	Santago Bell-Bradford / Jenny Kay / Angelo Weekes	The Garden Classroom	TGC's Green Economy Training, Skills and Jobs Masterclass for ages 16 to 25 - a pilot project working in collaboration with LBI's Young Person's Skills and Employment department offering four events introducing the next generation to the potential training, volunteering and job opportunities in the environment sector. Funding to pay for a project manager for 3 and a half days (to host and for preparation time), volunteer expenses and venue hire.	King Henry's Walk Garden	10 June to 30 October 2021 (4 events over 2 days on 8 July and 30 September)	Young people aged 16 to 25	20+	605	805	£200 LBI Employment, Skills and Culture (for catering)	
St Peter's	Alice Clarke-Perry / Toby North	The Spitz Charitable Trust	Music for Hope and Recovery' - 10 interactive weekly live music events at Bridgeside Lodge aimed at restoring the well-being of residents and staff after the traumas of Covid-19. They will take the form of 'small group' activities in the communal areas or gardens (weather dependent) and 1 to 1 bedroom visits for less mobile residents (19 of the 64 residents are room-bound). The activities will be interactive and inclusive: music, dance / movement, and spoken word. The project will culminate in a celebratory event in the garden with music and dancing, a showcasing of the activities created and will also involve paying tributes to the residents who have passed away. Funding to pay for two musicians for 5 two hour sessions.	Bridgeside Lodge Care Home, 61 Wharf Road, N1 7RY	5 July to 10 September 2021 (weekly sessions over a 3 month period)	Mainly the residents of Bridgeside Lodge Care Home, all of whom are living with complex long term disabilities including dementia and brain injuries	64 residents, 80 day staff, 64 visitors and passers-by on the canal path	1,600	9,273	£5,000 Derwent, £2,500 Worshipful Company of Insurers, £173 Devonshires	

NEW PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON 16 AUGUST 2021 (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	Fairer Together Comments
Barnsbury / Bunhill / Caledonian / Canonbury / Clerkenwell / Finsbury Park / Highbury East / Hillrise / Holloway / Junction / Mildmay / St George's / St Mary's / St Peter's / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Bunhill, Canonbury, Highbury East, Hillrise, Holloway, Junction, Mildmay, St George's and Tollington wards / Sara Hyde / Ben Mackmurdie / Matt Nathan / Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Angela Picknell / Nurullah Turan / Alice Clarke-Perry / Toby North	Islington Clean Air Parents (LBI Greenspace)	Islington Forest for Change, an 'urban forest' project which aims to plant up to 200 trees in and around Islington. The trees are being donated to Islington by Forest for Change, an interactive installation open at Somerset House from 1 to 27 June. Suitable locations around the borough have already been identified, including housing estates, under-used open spaces, and vacant tree pits. Residents, community groups and schools are being asked for ideas on planting locations and community planting sessions will be organised with schools and residents in the autumn. Funding to pay for the cost of transporting and short term after-care of the trees before they are planted in the borough in Autumn 2021.	In suitable places throughout the borough, all of which will be validated by Greenspace to ensure they are adequate to support a growing tree	3 June to 31 December 2021 (planting in Autumn 2021)	All residents in the borough and visitors	Unable to quantify, potentially all 239,000 residents	4,400	30,000	£1,920 The Rome Project £5,000 tbc Mayor's Green Fund £5,000 tbc sponsorship from businesses £17,162 crowdfunding (as of 12/8/21)	The amount requested from all wards across the borough is £4,800 (£300 for two trees per ward).
Barnsbury / Bunhill / Caledonian / Canonbury / Clerkenwell / Highbury East / Highbury West / Hillrise / Holloway / Junction / Mildmay / St George's / St Mary's / St Peter's / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Caledonian, Canonbury, Highbury East, Hillrise, Holloway, Junction, Mildmay, St George's and Tollington wards / Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham / Ben Mackmurdie / Matt Nathan / Bashir Ibrahim / Roulin Khondoker / Angela Picknell / Alice Clarke-Perry	Islington Play Association	Islington Playday 2021 in Paradise Park, a national event promoting and celebrating children's right to play. The event is run by qualified playworkers from Islington's 12 Adventure Playgrounds and will also promote the free service offered by the Adventure Playgrounds. Activities include the water slide, the high jump, making slime, building a den or getting creative in the 'cardboard city' to name just a few. Around 300 children from each ward attend the Adventure Playgrounds and each site will bring children to the event. Funding to pay for equipment and resources for the activities, PA and generator hire, bottled water, transport for the equipment, publicity and handwashing equipment/resources.	Paradise Park	Wednesday 4 August 2021	Children, young people and families from across the borough	1,000+	3,000	10,300	£5,500 funding secured (IPA and Awesome, Institute of Physics, Brightstart, Greenspace, Arsenal), £1,600 tbc for staff & equipment (The Culture Mile, Flying Seagulls and Access to Sport)	The amount requested from all wards across the borough is £3,200 (£200 per ward).

NEW PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ON 16 AUGUST 2021 (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	Fairer Together Comments
Barnsbury / Caledonian / Holloway	Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / Paul Convery / Sara Hyde / Una O'Halloran / Jason Jackson / Diarmaid Ward	Light Project Pro International	Healthy Lives', to extend current activities and set up new activities for local residents that promote their mental and physical wellbeing. They would like to continue the weekly art and cooking classes, set up two types of exercise classes after a consultation with local residents (maybe zumba and dance) and are looking to reestablish the over 65 club. Due to Covid, space has been tight so numbers have been low and they have turned people away. To increase capacity, they may hold the exercise classes in the park and they are separately fundraising to purchase mobile furniture to allow for greater flexibility in the setup and arrangement of the main space in the building (which they have only recently moved into), which would allow for increased numbers at these projects while maintaining safe social distances. Outreach to attract more residents will be increased (outreach has been restricted due to Covid since they moved in). Funding to pay for the tutors for 2 different types of exercise classes (12 weeks each), 12 cooking classes (tutor and materials), 12 art classes (tutor and supplies/materials) and extra equipment / activities for the over 65 club.	The Exchange, Watkinson Road, N7 8DE	September to December 2021	Open to all, currently mostly women from BME backgrounds (from Barnsbury / Caledonian / Holloway wards) and outreach planned in these areas too	100+	2,450	5,010	£2,560 LPPI in kind through use of building space	
Barnsbury / Highbury East / Highbury West / Holloway / Junction / Mildmay / St Mary's / Tollington	All councillors of Barnsbury, Highbury East, Holloway, Junction, Mildmay and Tollington wards / Bashir Ibrahim / Roulin Khondoker / Gary Poole	Isledon Wolves Youth Football Club	To increase the number of training hours on council astro pitches for their 70 plus players, enabling them to recover fitness, skills and healthy eating levels lost during successive covid lockdowns. They plan to increase the number of training sessions to two per week for every member, compared to their average now of one or less a week. This would also allow the players to have more space as sessions would not be so crowded. Volunteering positions will be offered to young people in the local area and the club teaches their players how to eat properly too. This programme keeps young people off the streets and away from gang activity as well as motivating them to do well later in life. Funding to pay for pitch hire and volunteer coaches for 2 sessions per week for 31 weeks of the year (next football season).	Whittington Park and Market Road football pitches	September 2021 to May 2022	Young people aged 7 to 14, 65% BAME, largely from social housing estates and low income single parent families	77	6,594.55	8,060	Not applicable	The amount requested is £8,060 from 10 wards.

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Barnsbury / St Peter's	Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche / Rowena Champion / Alice Clarke-Perry / Martin Klute / Toby North	IDA Centre for Community Development and Research (IDA Centre)	Provision of 2 sets of 14 week workshops (28 workshops in total) for up to 30 women to develop and design a women's cooperative that uses women's existing skills to improve their financial and mental wellbeing. There will be introductory, recipe sharing /cooking and recovery / employment focussed workshops. They hope to create business opportunities for the women through a number of social enterprises., the first one being a food delivery service for which they will use the Arc Centre kitchen. It is hoped that some of the women will be employed in this social enterprise within 6 to 9 months of the start date. Funding to pay for 12 weeks of kitchen hire, a project co-ordinator for 28 weeks, workshop facilitator/employment advisor for 20 workshops, insurance and other associated costs.	Initially via Zoom, later on at the Arc Centre and / or Mildmay Community Centre	April to December 2021	Targetted at BAME women, particularly those from Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa	30 women	832	8,235	£4,156 20-21 LIF secured, £2,000 tbc sponsorship from individuals	The amount requested is £6,235 from 6 wards (£2,079 from 4 wards in this round).
Barnsbury	Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche	Community Tool Bank	Priory Green Estate Community Tool Bank, a free tool lending service for low income residents in social housing to undertake household maintenance tasks and domestic repairs. Peabody Housing Association has awarded this group a Community Leaders grant to kick start a community tool bank on the estate which will fund a stock of tools and things to share. It is a free service being run from a drop off and collection point in the Hugh Cubitt Centre and will be available to residents 24 hours a day. To encourage takeup, they are linking to Help on Your Doorstep and Peabody events and media. Funding to pay for insurance and community engagement funds (printing leaflets, surveys, volunteer expenses, prizes for completing surveys and resources/ refreshments for fun days).	Priory Green Housing Estate, 48 Collier Street, N1 9QZ	Launch in September 2021, grant will be spent by 31 March 2022	Priory Green Housing Estate residents	Around 750 residents on estate - 270 households	750	1,750	£500 Peabody Housing Assoc, £50 other donations, £200 tbc Origin Housing Assoc, £250 tbc donations (John Duncan Housing and Plumbing)	
Bunhill	Valerie Bossman-Quarshie / Troy Gallagher / Phil Graham	Quaker Court TMO	A celebration with activities to mark the 20th anniversary of the TMO and to encourage social engagement between residents thereby rebuilding the sense of community that has been lost during lockdown. The main focus will be a day of different activities, including music, art, health and wellbeing, gardening, recycling, upcycling, food and play. A dedicated fundraiser / project organiser has been recruited who has been assisting with drafting the application and will continue to steer the project, including the task of promoting the activities they want to hold with local residents. They plan to find 3 external facilitators who will deliver dance, mental health/wellbeing and acting sessions. Funding to pay for food and drink.	Quaker Court Estate including the communal gardens and the 'podium'	Event on 29 August 2021, fundraiser / project manager paid for 14 weeks from 19 May onwards	Estate residents	Up to 100	700	4,748	£2,374 Quaker Court TMO	The amount requested is £2,374.

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Canonbury	John Woolf / Clare Jeapes / Nick Wayne	Islington Street Associations	Funding for a new organisation that encourages community cohesion by building and sustaining resident-led street associations. Engagement and monthly outreach will be continued with residents across the 3 existing Street Associations (Elmore Street, Elizabeth Avenue and Yeate Street). 'Reunion' events will be organised and delivered by residents of these 3 streets with the help of a project worker. They also plan to add at least 2 streets to the 3 already in action in the coming months and once the CIO is registered, the senior project worker will begin paving the way for the first new Street Association (on Halliford Street which has 120 households) through socially distanced doorstep visits, leaflets and social media. Funding to pay for event costs (e.g. BBQs, outings, celebrations, fun days, etc).	Events at Almorah Road Community Centre alongside outdoor activities in LTN areas, indoor events this summer	June 2021 to May 2022	Residents of Elmore Street, Elizabeth Avenue, Yeate Street, Halliford Street and another street near the Almorah Community Centre	Up to 500 households in 2021 and gradually increasing over time	1,000	5,000	£4,000 LIF 2021-22	This amount already agreed by all 3 councillors in June was £5,000. £1,000 of the budget is for events so can only be awarded now that the roadmap out of lockdown has ended.
Canonbury	Clare Jeapes / Nick Wayne / John Woolf	New River Baptist Church	Dover Soul Children's Holiday Club, a one week long children's holiday club in the first week of the school holiday for any and all local primary school aged children (5 to 11 years old). There will be four afternoons of free children's activities including team games and sports, drama, music, arts and crafts, science and a talk each day. On Saturday 31 July, they will host a BBQ at the The Bridge venue, a Thanksgiving Service, Fun Day games and a prize giving ceremony. Funding to contribute towards the equipment for children's workshops/activities, lunches for 30 volunteers, the BBQ, gifts, prizes and medals, publicity, a bouncy castle, games equipment and van hire.	Ashby Grove Green Space	Monday 26 to Saturday 31 July 2021	Mainly children aged 5 to 11 years old and their families	Up to 80 children and their families for the holiday club, up to 200 people at the Saturday event	500	1,610	£1,110 from the organising churches (St Jude & St Paul's Church and New River Baptist Church)	
Clerkenwell	Ben Mackmurdie / Matt Nathan	The Peel Institute (Clerkenwell Festival)	Small scale annual community festival in Spa Fields Park including a music stage, jumble sale, dog show, kids area, food stalls and a heritage walk. The aim of the festival is to bring the community together through music and entertainment. Young offenders and young homeless people will be performing on the main stage and acting as stewards which they have also done in previous years. There will be activities for children and young adults who will also be involved in the organising and running of the festival. The majority of the people who attend the festival live or work in Clerkenwell. Funding to contribute towards the costs of a PA and backline, bands, staff, stage, toilets, furniture and other associated costs.	Spa Fields Park	Sunday 29 August 2021	Local residents, including young offenders and homeless people who will be performers and stewards	500	4,611	4,611	Not applicable	

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Page 17 Clerkenwell	Matt Nathan	Bevin Courts Resident Group (LBI Active Travel)	Upcycling of old bikes left on Bevin Court which is in a Low Traffic Neighbourhood. They have 25 old bikes and would like to upcycle 7 to 10 of these bikes to provide a fleet of bikes for residents of Bevin Court which they can use to be more independent and sustainable in their daily travel behaviours in the local area. An Islington Council sourced mechanic will come onsite, select the most cost-effective bikes to repair and upcycle (varying in size to accommodate children and adults) which will then be stored in the new cycle storage unit provided by the council. Funding to pay for repairs and parts, 10 hours of mechanic labour and locks for the bikes.	Bevin Court, Cruikshank Street	Before August 2022	Bevin Court residents	7 to 10 users of the upcycled bikes (directly), 374 Bevin Court residents	850	850	Not applicable	
	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh	Lauren Reed Productions / EWT Theatre for the Community CIC	'Estimated Waiting Time', a new play for the residents of the Andover Estate as part of the 'Arts on Estates' initiative, enabling access to free, live, socially relevant outdoor theatre in August 2021. This play has already successfully toured secondary schools in the borough a part of the 11 by 11 initiative. Four shows will be held outdoors over the August Bank Holiday weekend. This play aims to show the existence of hope and possibility, even in the most difficult circumstances, and that human connection can be made across ages, genders and ethnicities, a crucial message to deliver when rebuilding a community post-pandemic. Funding to pay for the fees for actors for 2 days, performance rights, stage manager, marketing costs, captioning software, covid safety equipment and insurance.	Outside the Andover Community Centre	27 to 30 August 2021 (4 performances over the bank holiday weekend)	Open to all but aimed at all 2,600 residents of the Andover Estate	260 to 390 across the 4 performances	731.17	2,608.69	£1,050 Cripplegate Foundation, £275 in kind support from Andover Community Centre, £186.94 other in kind support	The amount requested is £1,096.75.
	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh	Jannaty Women's Social Society	Production of reusable canvas bags by local women. Jannaty members will attend weekly sewing classes to produce the canvas bags. The bags will be distributed to residents accessing their weekly soup kitchen and through their community contacts. This will include offering the canvas bags to their members, local organisations such as KMEWO, distributing them in their shop (for free) and via their online charity shop and they will share messaging on social media platforms to inform local residents and supporters. Four volunteers will help during the classes and two other volunteers will use their cars to deliver and collect material from disabled members and those unable to leave their home due to childcare and other reasons. Funding to pay for fabric and thread, volunteer expenses, an overlocker sewing machine, telephone and insurance.	225 -229 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA	September to December 2021	The local community receiving the bags (particularly those accessing Jannaty's soup kitchen and returning weekly), BAME women from lower income backgrounds	2,000 bags produced (1,000 to 1,500 residents), 12 to 15 women involved in making bags	1,000	2,460	£500 LIF awarded in Feb 2020 (originally for a fashion show)	The amount requested is £1,960. £500 LIF originally awarded in February 2020 for a fashion show which did not happen due to Covid will now be used on this project instead.

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Page 18 Finsbury Park	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh	Outlandish (Northbound Community Radio)	Production costs for a start up project, Northbound Community Radio, so they can deliver 12 weekly community radio shows created by residents. The 12 shows will be done in collaboration with Islington Council and address the council's current community priorities. Three of the 12 shows will be done in association with Founders & Coders and businesses and will focus on promoting digital opportunities for those aged 17 to 50. Six shows will focus on health and wellbeing and will explain the practices and beliefs of different cultures within Finsbury Park and provide health and nutritional guidance. The other three shows will provide guidance and awareness for Finsbury Park retailers, particularly on Fonthill Road, and will focus on young people interested in fashion. Funding to contribute towards the delivery of 12 shows, i.e. the editing of the community shows, production room hire, editorial team lead expenses and two microphones.	Outlandish Co-op, Space 4, 113 Fonthill Road, N4 3HH	1 June to 31 December 2021	Back room team involved in production who are all Finsbury Park residents	17 Finsbury Park residents involved in production, 10,500 in audience	1,000	3,401.70	£1,901.70 Northbound Radio (website development / enhancement and station infrastructure and hosting costs)	The amount requested is £1,500.
			<p>The creation of a multi functional Eco Garden on the grounds surrounding St Andrew's Church. There will be wildlife-friendly plants, bug hotels, bird feeders, bat boxes, etc using the closed off spaces around the church and the larger space will be cleared so it can be used for children's play and social gatherings. The garden will be open as a recreational space and will be accessible to all. Funding to pay for eco-friendly/insect friendly plants, bulbs and seeds, a path for easier access, materials for improving the soil and tools.</p>	St Andrews Church, Whitehall Park	2 July to 31 December 2021	Open to all	Unable to quantify (6,100 residents in St Andrew's Parish)	1,300	1,300	Not applicable	
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	St Andrew's Church									
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association and St Mary's Church	A gardening project to introduce the local community to food growing, initially in the St Mary's Church grounds. This is a partnership project between St Mary's Church, Octopus, Brickworks and Hornsey Lane. Over the summer, they would like to consult with the community to gather their ideas about food growing at St Marys Church. Four interactive workshops will be held over the summer which will be led by two freelance gardeners with Octopus being the overall lead on this. Funding to pay for the four workshops (two gardeners, refreshments, publicity and materials).	St Mary's Church, Ashley Road, N19	1 August to 30 September 2021	All sections of the local community	200	700	700	Not applicable	

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Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	House of AMAU	One year facilitation support for the Elthorne Elders Creative Writing Group and the production and publishing of an anthology of creative writing from members of the group. The group includes people suffering from poor recall and the participation in the weekly meetings seemed to result in an improvement of this. Some of their work was also published in the Islington Tribune. Unfunded weekly meetings were held physically for some time and right up to the point of the first pandemic lockdown and support has been provided via phone or email ever since. This project can move online if needed. Funding to contribute towards the cost of holding 42 two hour weekly sessions (workshop facilitator for 10 sessions, refreshments for participants, stationery, sundries and insurance).	New Orleans Community Centre	29 September 2021 to 31 August 2022	Older people living on or around the Elthorne Estate	4 to 6 older people directly, if work published could reach hundreds of residents	1,120	2,720	£1,600 in kind from the workshop facilitator who will provide 32 sessions free of charge	
Hillrise / Junction	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall / Janet Burgess / Sheila Chapman / Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Bomb Factory Theatre CIC	The Festival will consist of three full-length plays preceded by a scratch night platforming seven short plays written by emerging female-identifying and non-binary playwrights. Some of the themes explored will be eating disorders, women's relationships with their bodies, alcoholism, abusive relationships, queer narratives and other crucial and political subjects. Two post show discussions will be organised. The first will invite Hillrise and Junction residents over 18 to discuss the themes explored and encourage a positive dialogue about the kinds of discrimination women in the arts face in the male-dominated theatre world. The second will invite Junction and Hillrise children to come and explore topical issues through a theatre workshop with them. Funding to pay for the cost of hiring a stage for the performance, lighting equipment hire and posters/flyers for a targeted marketing campaign in Hillrise and Junction.	The Bomb Factory Art Foundation, 9-15 Elthorne Road, Archway, N19 4AJ	24 August to 13 September 2021 (performances 4 and 5 Sept, post show discussion 11 Sept (tbc), children's workshops 12 and 13 Sept (tbc))	60 Hillrise and Junction schoolchildren (30 per ward), 50 Hillrise and Junction residents at post show discussion. 80 festival audience members from Hillrise and Junction	348 (of which 191 will be Islington residents)	1,500	23,352	£8,723 funding secured (of which £4,500 is for free hire of space for 15 days), £10,686 tbc Arts Council England, £2,160 tbc box office, £283 tbc fundraising	

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Holloway	Rakhia Ismail / Jason Jackson / Diarmaid Ward	Anemp & Co Solutions Ltd	Go Africa 2021, an African themed cultural community project which comprises of a series of creative workshops to help the wellbeing and mental health of the Islington African Diaspora community as well as offering skills and training to them. The workshops will teach skills in the African arts in all disciplines including literature, visual arts, textiles, music, adornment, and culinary skills and enterprise to name but a few. All workshops will deliver fun edutainment sessions for all ages and genres of the African Diaspora and non-African Islington communities. An outdoor family fun day (including up to 3 workshops and live music) will be held on Saturday 28 August at the Ringcross Community Centre in partnership with local businesses and community groups (including the Pillion Trust and Prospex). They have recently held an Adire & Tie & Dye workshop at Ringcross Community Centre. Funding to pay for the trainers and volunteers for 5 workshops as well as publicity (including newspaper and radio adverts), a bouncy castle, printed T-shirts, refreshments and printing.	Ringcross Community Centre, 60 Lough Road, N7 8RH (workshops and fun day)	5 workshops from June to October 2021 (usually 4 to 5 hours long), fun day on 28 August 2021, BHM showcase in October 2021	Targetted at vulnerable young adults from the British African Diaspora and refugees (but not limited to these)	450 from Islington, 15 students at each of the 5 workshops	1,542.91	6,027.91	£4,485 Mayor of London for venue hire, insurance and equipment	
Junction	Janet Burgess / Sheila Chapman / Kaya Comer-Schwartz	Tremlett Grove Gardening Group	Improvement of the garden space making it more inclusive and appealing by building a green sheltered seating area and inviting estate residents to a summer garden gathering. The shelter will offer people a place to sit and enjoy the garden space whether or not they are there to tend fruit and vegetable boxes (currently there is no such structure within the garden). The designs for the seating area would be shared with residents at the gathering (to which all estate residents will be invited), ahead of updating all estate residents on the estate about the plans by letter (with the help of the council). Funding to contribute towards the materials for the seating area (reclaimed timber, sedum/wildflower green roof, bench legs, railway sleeper benches and planter, soil and plants) and the summer garden gathering (refreshments for 100 people (allowing for 20% attendance), decorations and garden signage).	The Brennand Court Vegetable Garden, Brennands Court, Tremlett Grove Estate, N19	Gathering on a Saturday or Sunday in September 2021, seating area built by 30 September 2021	All estate residents, especially young families and older people	Estimated 100 people at event (20% attendance), up to 100 families on the estate	750	1,140	£390 Tremlett Grove Gardening Group	

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Mildmay	Santiago Bell-Bradford / Angelo Weekes	Newington Green Alliance (in partnership with Minik Kardes)	Newington Green Unity Festival / Newington Green Birlik Festival, an intercultural community event. The event will celebrate the way local people have come together in mutuality and solidarity in recent times, mark the recent losses and help the community to unite in solidarity to face the future together. There will be live music and spoken word performances from different cultures, face painting and storytelling for children, food stalls, stalls run by community groups offering their services and information on the group's ongoing projects, e.g. youth mentoring, BAME women's employment coaching, refugee resettlement, film club, etc. Funding to pay for the stage, sound system and sound engineer.	On the Newington Green	Event on 11 September 2021 (half day)	Local residents	300 (200 from Islington)	800	3,100	£1,000 Hackney Clissold Neighbourhood funding, £800 grant funding tbc, £300 private donation	The amount requested is £1,000.
St George's	Tricia Clarke / Satnam Gill / Gulcin Ozdemir	Brecknock Road Estate Tenants and Residents Association (BRETRA)	Brecknock Children's Gardening Project, where children are involved in planting herbs and flowers in five empty planters on the estate and then help to maintain them. There are watering get-togethers on weekends where they meet and do the watering and check on the plants. The herbs can be freely picked and used for cooking by anyone on the estate. Every child has been or will be given appropriately sized gardening gloves and a watering can to keep so they can water and tend the plants themselves. Octopus have donated plants to this project. Funding to pay for children's gardening gloves, cat and fox deterrents, children's watering cans, plants and children's hand tools.	North and South Courtyards, Brecknock Road Estate	26 June to 31 August 2021 (and beyond for long term aftercare of the plants)	Children aged 3 and 13, all estate residents	15 - 30 estate children, all residents of 190 flats (approx 500 people)	721.33	721.33	Not applicable	
St Mary's	Angela Picknell / Nurullah Turan	Anemp & Co Solutions Ltd	Go Africa 2021, an African themed cultural community project which comprises of creative workshops to help the wellbeing and mental health of the Islington African Diaspora community. The workshops will teach skills in the African arts including literature, visual arts, textiles, music, adornment, and culinary skills and enterprise. All workshops will deliver fun edutainment sessions for all ages and genres of the African Diaspora and non-African Islington communities. An outdoor family fun day will be held in August at the Ringcross Community Centre and they will also host a Black History Month showcase in October 2021. They have recently held a Creative Story telling workshop at Mary's Community Centre. Funding to pay for the trainers and volunteers for 5 workshops as well as publicity (including newspaper and radio adverts), printed T-shirts, refreshments and printing.	Mary's Community Centre, Upper Street, N1 2TX (workshops)	5 workshops from June to October 2021 (usually 4 to 5 hours long), fun day on 28 August 2021, BHM showcase in October 2021	Targetted at vulnerable young adults from the British African Diaspora and refugees (but not limited to these)	250 from Islington, 15 students at each of the 5 workshops	1,100	6,047.91	£4,485 Mayor of London for venue hire, insurance and equipment	The amount requested is £1,562.91.

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St Peter's	Alice Clarke-Perry / Martin Klute / Toby North	St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group	A four week summer holiday programme of teacher-led educational sessions together with healthy meals, sports and other fun activities for 30 disadvantaged children aged 9 to 11 with the overall aim of ensuring that the children can start the next school year with the learning and confidence necessary to achieve their potential. The four local primary schools in the ward prioritise and nominate children on the basis of children's needs and parental agreement. Funding to pay for one day's kayaking at Islington Boat Club for each child in two groups of 15 children.	The Arc Community Centre, 98b St Paul Street, N1 7DF Kayaking at Islington Boat Club	2 to 28 August 2021 (kayaking on 26 and 27 August)	Children living in St Peter's ward and their families	30 children	2,500	28,000	£5,000 LBI Community Chest, £5,000 Charles S French Charitable Trust, £5,000 Trusthouse Charitable Foundation, £3,000 John Murray Charitable Trust, £8,000 individual donations	
St Peter's	Martin Klute	Islington Proms	Islington Proms 2021, an annual festival consisting of 8 weekend concerts providing high quality professional music. Schools and local children will be involved via a Youth Prom, showcasing talented young performers. There will also be an exhibition of art by local artists, and talks and discussions on various topics. Ticket prices are low and especially low for older people, students and the unwaged and are free for children. Funding to contribute towards the cost of performers (early music consort, solo singers, choir, orchestra, string quartet and jazz trio), church hire and printing costs.	St James Church, Prebend Street, N1 8PH	4 to 18 September 2021	Local people	400-500 mainly from St Peter's ward (40 to 70 at each concert)	500	5,640	£4,000 tbc from ticket sales, £690 tbc sponsorship, £350 tbc donations, £100 tbc ad revenue (brochure)	
St Peter's	Alice Clarke-Perry / Martin Klute / Toby North	The Arc Community Space CIC	Delivering emergency food supplies to local residents experiencing food poverty and/ or unable to access food during lockdown. They will like to sustain this weekly provision which is open 3 times a week for a further 16 weeks from early August while they seek long term funding. Due to donations of food from Edible, the Felix Project, Gail's, Popham's Cafe, Waitrose, the Co-op and M&S, they now only need to raise a shortfall of £5.30 per food box (each box costs £40 and provides food for a week). A team of 64 volunteers have supported the food bank deliveries since April 2021. Funding to pay for food for 75 households for 6 weeks, a foodbank co-ordinator for 5 weeks, volunteer DBS checks and PPE/equipment.	Food deliveries from Arc Community Space, 98b St Paul's Road	2 August to 22 November 2021 (16 weeks)	Households suffering multiple issues and disadvantages, e.g. low income, health issues, etc	Feeding 75 households (204 people) per week	4,000	12,000	£400 Aldi, £400 CAF, £7,299 through local fundraising	

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Tollington	Mick Gilgunn / Anjna Khurana / Flora Williamson	Hanley Crouch Community Association	Monthly health and well being workshops, each lasting 3 hours, incorporating social and therapeutic activities. The therapeutic activities include chair and keep fit exercises, meditation, yoga and topics like mental health will be discussed. Funding to pay for six workshops (refreshments, two therapists, four volunteers, disposable plates, cups, etc and travel expenses).	Brickworks Community Centre, 42 Crouch Hill, N4 4BY	28 August 2021 to 15 January 2022	Older people	50 (of whom 25 are from Islington)	1,705.56	1,705.56	Not applicable	

Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining

Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2021-22:	£225,000
Total allocations made from previous LIF budgets:	£59,422
Amount allocated to date:	£41,551
Balance remaining:	£242,871
Proposals agreed under delegated approval on 21 June and 16 August 2021:	£60,782
Total amount remaining to allocate in 2021-22:	£182,089

2021-22 Balance remaining by ward:	
Ward	Balance:
Barnsbury	£15,150
Bunhill	£12,459
Caledonian	£17,715
Canonbury	£9,861
Clerkenwell	£7,980
Finsbury Park	£10,576
Highbury East	£14,415
Highbury West	£10,926
Hillrise	£6,123
Holloway	£6,908
Junction	£9,163
Mildmay	£11,886
St George's	£19,203
St Mary's	£12,949
St Peter's	£5,957
Tollington	£10,820

£182,089**Notes:**

Includes £5,691 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £2,409 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £6,461 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £6,861 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £871 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £223 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £4,958 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £5,080 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £3,202 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £3,763 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £10,354 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £6,994 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,473 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,083 from previous LIF allocations / budgets



Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Wards
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	20 September 2021		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 2) and outlines the recommendations for DRR applications received in the most recent application period (Deadline 20 August 2021).

2. Recommendation

2.1 To approve DRR awards to six organisations (six hereditaments) listed at appendix 1 from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2023, as these have met the criteria as set out in the DRR policy (appendix 2).

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 for 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 Taxpayers of its area.

3.3 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.

3.4 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.

3.5 To date for this financial year (21/22), DRR has been awarded to 130 organisations occupying 167 hereditaments. The total in relief awarded to date is £1,126,626.80 with £337,988.05 being the cost to Islington Council in foregone income.

3.6 For the latest round of DRR (which closed on 20 August 2021) applications were received from **seven organisations for seven hereditaments**. These applications were assessed in line with the criteria detailed in the Council's DRR Policy 2020-23 (see appendix 2). One application received did not meet the eligibility criteria and has not been put forward.

4. Discretionary Rate Relief Award Recommendations

4.1 Following assessment, DRR is recommended to **six organisations occupying six hereditaments** shown at appendix 1 as all of these applications clearly meet the criteria set out in the DRR policy (appendix 2) and this will be applied from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2023. Approvals are broken down into the following categories:

	Total Relief Awarded (2021/22)	Total Cost to LBI (2021/22)
Voluntary and Community Organisations	£3,904.10	£1,184.22
Schools	£24,166.79	£7,249.92
Grand Total	£28,070.89	£8,434.14

4.2 All applications being recommended for approval are from voluntary and community sector organisations and schools, totalling £28,070.89 in relief awarded and £8,434.14 in foregone income for the council in this round.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial Implications

DRR is awarded at the discretion of the council. 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 from 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.

Public funding/support given in Great Britain since 1 January 2021 is no longer subject to state aid law. New rules on subsidy control now apply, which are in many ways closely analogous to EU state aid law. Public authorities are to make a case by case consideration of their proposed subsidy in compliance with the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) reached between the UK and the EU. The TCA is incorporated into domestic law by virtue of Section 29 of the EU (Future Relationships) Act 2020.

The concept of subsidy subject to the TCA requirements is defined in very broad terms. A subsidy is a measure which:

- a) is given by a public authority (including a local authority)
- b) makes a contribution to an enterprise conferring an economic advantage that is not available on market terms (for example, grants, loans at below market rate, or allowing a company to use publicly owned offices rent free). An enterprise could be a government department or charity if it acts commercially; and
- c) affects international trade

The UK-EU TCA obligations must be met if they apply, and the subsidy must meet the terms of its principles. The TCA sets out principles which all subsidies of more than 325,000 Special Drawing Rights (approximately £350,000) given to a single beneficiary over 3 years must meet.

The only exceptions are subsidies to compensate for natural disasters, subsidies for agriculture and subsidies for audio visual. If in scope, the council must consider these principles in the design and granting of subsidies on a case-by-case basis. Failure to do so could leave the council open to judicial review.

The principles are that the subsidies should:

- i. Pursue a specific public policy objective to remedy an identified market failure or to address an equity rationale such as social difficulties or distributional concerns (“the objective”)
- ii. Be proportionate and limited to what is necessary to achieve the objective
- iii. Be designed to bring about a change of economic behaviour of the beneficiary that is conducive to achieving the objective and that would not be achieved in the absence of subsidies being provided
- iv. Not normally compensate for the costs the beneficiary would have funded in the absence of any subsidy
- v. Should be an appropriate policy instrument to achieve a public policy objective and that objective cannot be achieved through other less distortive means
- vi. Subsidies’ positive contributions to achieving the objective should outweigh any negative effects, in particular the negative effects on trade or investment between the UK and EU.

The government is seeking views on the best way to design a bespoke approach to UK-wide subsidy control, including any additions to the principles underpinning the regime and any subsidies which should be excluded from the commitments to these principles. It is also seeking thoughts on how best to manage the most distortive kinds of subsidies, in addition to opinions on the role and powers of the independent body that will oversee the regime. The government aims to deliver a subsidy control regime that:

- Facilitates strategic interventions to support government priorities, including supporting the economy’s recovery from COVID-19
- Takes account of the economic needs of the UK’s individual nations and strengthens the economic bonds of our Union
- Protects the UK’s competitive and dynamic market economy and
- Ensures that subsidies in the UK are given in line with our international commitments including those in the UK-EU TCA

The consultation ended on 31 March 2021. A Subsidy Control Bill has since been introduced.

For the avoidance of doubt, the council can still pay out subsidies over previously approved schemes as these will be in line with the principles. This includes subsidies related to COVID-19 that have previously been given under the State Aid Temporary Framework. The council must keep these schemes under review and apply the principles to any changes made to these schemes.

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 Recommendation

- 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 – Organisations recommended for approval from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2023

Appendix 2 – DRR Policy 2020-2023

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Uma O'Halloran

Executive Member for Community Development

Date: 8 September 2021

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Organisations Recommended for Approval from 1st July 2021 to 31st March 2023

Name of Organisation	Address of premises for DRR	Type of Organisation	Total Relief Awarded (21/22)	Cost to Council (21/22)
London City YMCA	167 Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JT	VCS	2,940.56	882.17
St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic Primary School	42 Compton Street, London EC1V 0EU	School	6,673.99	2,002.20
Minority Matters Ltd	Pt Ground Floor & 1 st Floor 50-51 Corker Walk, London N7 7RU	VCS	573.44	172.03
Christ The King Roman Catholic Primary School	55 Tollington Park, London N4 3QW	School	10,427.20	3,128.16
Artbox London	Studio 1, Orkney House, 195-199 Caledonian Road, London N1 0AF	VCS	390.10	130.02
St Mary's Church of England Primary School	Fowler Road, London N1 2EP	School	7,065.60	2,119.56
Total			£28,070.89	£8,434.14

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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