

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 20 March 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 20 March 2023 at 6.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Roulin Khondoker and
Una O'Halloran

Jason Jackson and Claire Zammit (observers)

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item 1)**

Received from Councillor Nurullah Turan.

12 **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item 2)**

None.

13 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 3)**

None.

14 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2022 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

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

RESOLVED:

(a) That the new proposals and changes to previous proposals submitted by Ward councillors and detailed in Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Homes and Communities be approved in principle, subject to the Corporate Director of Community Engagement and Wellbeing being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any outstanding issues resolved.

(b) That the declarations of interest made by councillors having a connection with organisations that they are recommending funding for, as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report, be noted.

(c) That the Corporate Director of Community Engagement and Wellbeing be authorised to make changes to the use of previously awarded funding.

(d) To note that, although further applications received for projects addressing the cost of living crisis would be accepted until the end of March 2023, they would not be funded from the Local Initiatives Fund budget and would be considered by the Cost of Living Board and the Corporate Director Community Engagement and Wellbeing.

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. The approved proposals represented a wide range of activity and delivered significant benefits to local communities.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted – none

16 **ISLINGTON COUNCIL VENUES COMMUNITY FREE HIRE SCHEMES ROUND 2 (Item B2)**

RESOLVED:

(a) That "Britain's Got Reggae/Cally Connects-US" be offered one free hire use of the Assembly Hall between June and September 2023

(b) That "Head Held High" be held in reserve, in case of the inability of the applicant in resolution (a) above to negotiate appropriate dates and timings.

(c) That "Stonewall Housing" and "The Sapphire Community Group" offered one free hire use of the Town Hall Committee Rooms between June and September 2023.

(d) That "Eritrean Community in UK" be held in reserve, in case of the inability of the applicants in resolution (c) above to negotiate appropriate dates and timings.

Reasons for the decision

The scheme provided an opportunity for the Council to support local organisations through free use of the Assembly Hall and civic space. Applications had been assessed through a clear and transparent process.

Other options considered – none

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted – none

17 **LONDON BOROUGH GRANTS SCHEME 2023/24 (Item B3)**

RESOLVED:

To note the 2023/24 London Boroughs Grants Committee budget of £6.668m and Islington's annual contribution of £0.184m, as approved by the Executive on 12 January 2023, and detailed in the report of the Corporate Director of Resources.

Reasons for decision

The Council's decision on the 2023/24 London Boroughs' Grants Committee budget and Islington's contribution was due to be notified to London Councils no later than 13 January 2023. For reasons of urgency, the approval was gained by the Executive on 12 January 2023 and was being notified to Voluntary and Community Sector Committee for information.

Other options considered – none.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted – none

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm

CHAIR