



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

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**AGENDA FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE**

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Members of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee are summoned to a meeting which will be held in Committee Room 1 at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on **25 March 2024 at 6:30pm.**

Enquiries to : Jonathan Moore  
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Despatched : 15 March 2024

Membership

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz  
Councillor Una O'Halloran  
Councillor Roulin Khondoker  
Councillor Santiago Bell-Bradford

Substitute Members

Councillor Rowena Champion  
Councillor Michelline Ngongo  
Councillor Nurullah Turan  
Councillor Diarmaid.Ward  
Councillor John Woolf

Observers

Councillor Troy Gallagher  
Councillor Jason Jackson  
Councillor Phil Graham

**Quorum: is 2 Councillors**

1. Apologies for absence
  2. Declaration of substitute members
  3. Declarations of interest
  4. Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 2
- A. Matters for decision**
1. Local Initiatives Fund 2023/24 - Round 3 3 - 20
  2. Islington Council Venues Community Free Hires Scheme - Round 2 21 - 32
  3. Islington Community Chest 2024-25 33 - 38

**B. Matters for information**

**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

London Borough of Islington

## **Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 30 January 2024**

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30 January 2024 at 6.30 pm.

**Present:**      **Councillors:**      Comer-Schwartz, O'Halloran and Bell-Bradford

### **Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair**

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Khondoker.

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

There were no declarations of substitute members.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2023 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

**45**      **VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR PARTNERSHIP GRANTS PROGRAMME 2024-2028 (UPDATE) (Item B1)**

Executive Member Homes and Neighbourhood informed the meeting that the report was considered at the December meeting. The following points were highlighted:

- That out of the 51 organisations which were awarded grants, 4 organisations exceeded the total contract value of £500,000 which is deemed to be a key decision under the council's governance arrangements.
- At the end of December 2023 all 51 organisations were sent confirmation notifications, and subject to them returning their annual work plans by 16 February 2024, their Service Level Agreements are marked to be completed by 31 March 2024, with a start date for the contracts to commence on 1 April 2024.
- Executive Member reiterated that to ensure that the commitments made within any established grant agreements and applications are developed and actioned, 6 monthly monitoring and partnership meetings will be held throughout the duration of the grant programme.

**RESOLVED:**

- The update of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2024-28 be noted.

- The funding allocation of £2,711,500 per full financial year over the programme for four years , totally £10,846,000 be noted.

Reasons for Decision: As specified in the report

Other Options Considered - As detailed in the report

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensation granted - none

- 46**     **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS 2023-2026 (Item B2)**  
Executive Member Homes and Neighbourhood highlighted a number of issues in the report:

- The report sets out the background of the Council’s DRR policy for 2023-26 and outlines the recommendations for DRR applications received in Round 2 of the programme which ran from 1 June 2023- 31 December 2023.
- DRR is applied to 6 organisations occupying 6 hereditaments shown in Appendix A.
- DRR is applied to 1 organisation occupying 1 hereditament shown in Appendix B subject to clarification on activities carried out for community benefit.

**RESOLVED:**

- That the DRR awards to the organisations listed in Appendix A for 3 years be noted.
- That the DRR award to the organisation listed in Appendix B be noted.

Reasons for Decision: As specified in the report

Other Options Considered - As detailed in the report

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensation granted - none

The meeting ended at 6.35 pm

**CHAIR**

Community Engagement and Wellbeing  
222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR

Report of Cllr O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities

Meeting of: Voluntary and Community Sector Committee

Date: 25 March 2024

Ward(s): All

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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 2023/24 each ward has an allocation of £13,000 to spend on local schemes. 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 consider the new proposals and changes to previous proposals submitted by ward councillors as set out in Appendix A and to agree these proposals in principle subject to the Corporate Director of Community Engagement and Wellbeing being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.
- 2.2. To note the declarations of interest made by councillors due to having a connection with organisations that they are recommending funding for. These are detailed at paragraph 4.3.
- 2.3. To note the amendments to ward budgets resulting from project funding being returned, which are detailed in Appendix B.

- 2.4. To agree that no more than £1000 underspend per ward can be carried forward by councillors to 2024/25.
- 2.5. To continue with delegated authority to the Corporate Director Community Engagement and Wellbeing, in consultation with the Executive Member for Homes and Communities, to make changes to the use of previously awarded funding.

### 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 Community Partnerships Team in the Community Engagement and Wellbeing Directorate 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 2021/22, the annual Local Initiatives Fund budget was therefore £225,000. This was £14,000 per ward apart from the Bunhill and Clerkenwell ward budgets which were each £14,500.
- 3.7. In March 2022, it was agreed that two new ward partnership co-ordinator posts needed to be created. An additional ward partnership co-ordinator was recruited to the Finsbury ward partnership due to the additional workload involved in dealing with two wards. In May 2022, the number of wards in Islington increased from 16 to 17 which meant that a further ward partnership co-ordinator was recruited.
- 3.8. Due to the increased amount spent on honorariums/ incentive payments to co-ordinators and the larger number of wards, the amount of funding available in each

ward budget in 2023/24 for local schemes is £13,000. This means there is a reduction of the overall LIF budget from £240,000 to £238,000. Of this £238,000, £17,000 is spent on honorariums with £221,000 left to allocate to local schemes.

- 3.9. In November 2019, authority was delegated to the Head of Community Partnerships, 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. In September 2021, it was agreed that funding up to the value of £1,000 can be approved by the Head of Community Partnerships and Corporate Director Community Engagement and Wellbeing for activity to support Ward Partnership meetings.

## 4. LIF Awards 2023/24

- 4.1. Occasionally projects do not proceed as planned and funding is returned to ward budgets or the use of a grant has to be changed.

7 reallocations totalling £3403.44 have been added back into ward budgets and these are set out in Appendix B.

- 4.2. Since the last VCS Committee in November 2023, 54 applications for the Local Initiatives Fund have been received.
- 4.3. 3 of the 54 LIF applications were related to Ward Partnership activity, were recommended for funding and then formally agreed by the Head of Community Partnerships/ Corporate Director of Community Engagement and Wellbeing under delegated authority. These four applications totalling £888 are listed in Appendix A for information only.

Of the remaining 51 LIF applications, 1 was deferred until the next round, 10 applications were not recommended for funding, 2 applications were referred to Section 106/ Community Infrastructure Levy funding instead and 1 application was referred to Thriving Neighbourhoods funding, leaving a total of 37 applications recommended by ward councillors.

If the remaining 37 councillor funding recommendations are formally agreed by this VCS Committee, there will be £7004 left in the 2023/24 budget to be carried over to 24/25.

A list of the 37 LIF applications recommended for funding and the recommended amount for each application is set out in Appendix A.

- 4.4. 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 Ruth Hayes is a Trustee of Bridging the Gap that has been allocated £950 for mentoring.
  - Cllr Satnam Gill, Cllr Tricia Clarke and Cllr Gulcin Ozdemir are all co-opted trustees of Hilldrop Area Community Association that has been allocated £500 on behalf of St. George's Avenue Street Party.

Awards were made to the following ward partnerships for costs associated with holding ward partnership meetings or events:

- Arsenal Ward
- Junction Ward
- Tollington Ward

The councillors funding these costs are members of these ward partnerships and the main organisers of the meetings/ events so have declared an interest in the above.

## 5. Implications

### 5.1. Financial Implications

The Local Initiatives Fund in Financial Year 2023/24 has a total of £241,189 to allocate. This is comprised of an annual budget of £221,000 and a carried forward underspend/unallocated amount of £20,189 from previous awards or financial years. An additional £17,000 LIF budget is spent on honorarium/ incentive payments to ward partnership co-ordinators to a total of £1,000 per annum per ward. The core budget available for LIF will be £238,000.

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 and previous awards are sufficient to meet the funding requirements of this report.

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 2024/25.

Financial Year 2024/25 will start with a comprised annual budget of £221,000 and any additional carried forward underspend/unallocated. An additional £17,000 LIF budget will be spent on honorarium/ incentive payments to ward partnership co-ordinators to a total of £1,000 per annum per ward. There is a 2023-24 budget of £7,004 across LIF which will be carried forward into 2024/25, with £6,587 allocated



against wards and £417 unallocated. The core budget available for LIF will be £238,000 and a carried forward amount of £7,004.

## 5.2. **Legal Implications**

The general power of competence pursuant to Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 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 a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

Most if not all, of the projects funded by the LIF grants have carbon and environmental impacts, including the use of energy, fuel, water, food and drink, materials, prizes, generators and printing, while events being funded may create waste or journeys that contribute to transport-related emissions especially if attendees drive. However, many projects also have positive environmental impacts, including repairing items including planting, greening areas, local food growing and increasing local biodiversity. Wherever possible, projects will be undertaken with regard with the council's goal of achieving a net zero Islington by 2030, as per Islington Council's Environmental Policy.

## 5.4. **Equalities 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.

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 – Local Initiatives Fund Proposals

Appendix B – Local Initiatives Fund Ward Budget Reallocations (for information only)

Appendix C – Local Initiatives Fund Financial Breakdown (for information only)

**Background papers:** none

### **Final report clearance:**

Authorised by:

**Cllr Una O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities**

Date: 14 March 2024

Report Author: Elena Mitchell, Community Partnerships Officer

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Ward	Organisation	Project title	Project summary	Location	Project start date	End date	Timescale (incl start and end date here too)	Areas/ residents to Benefit	No. of residents to benefit	Application amount submitted to cttee (£)	Project total (£)	Match Funding Details	Community Engagement and Wellbeing Comments
All wards	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10000	6452	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards (£911.77 per ward).
All wards	The Elfrida Society	Elfrida Sports Project	The sports project aims to enhance the well-being of residents with LDAD (learning disabilities, autism and learning difficulties) by providing tailored weekly one hour sports sessions to improve physical and mental health, foster a sense of belonging and promote social inclusion. Sessions are free and tailored to participants' abilities. The majority of people supported are from low-income families and/or unemployed. Currently there is fitness on Mondays, tennis on Wednesdays, football on Thursdays, cricket on Fridays and some tournaments on the weekend.	Islington Tennis Centre and Gym, Market Rd, London N7 9PL	1.4.24	31.3.25	Weekly sessions from 1.4.24 to 31.3.25	Boroughwide	100	1189.12	19,362	15489.6 from other funders	The amount requested is £3,873 from all wards (£227.83 per ward).
Arsenal	Bag of Taste	Mentored at Home Budget Cooking Course	Home cooking course where referred participants struggling with the cost of food cook 3 healthy, tasty and affordable recipes over 2 weeks, mentored via Whatsapp or phone. Participants are given ingredients, recipe cards and a knife sharpener. Priority groups worked with include single parent households, people with disabilities and care leavers.	Home based	1.05.24	1.10.24	2 week course multiple offered across the year	Low income individuals in Arsenal, Bunhill, Laycock and Holloway - 94% of the last cohort received benefits, and majority in 30-60 age range.	28 (7 each ward)	300	5000	No detail given	The amount requested is £2,324 from 4 wards (£581 per ward).
Arsenal	Holloway Neighbourhood Group on behalf of Finsbury Park Women's Group Network	Summer Celebration for Women	Multicultural women's event with the aim of enhancing social cohesion, reducing isolation and celebrating cultural diversity. The event will be planned by a steering group made up of representatives from different BAMER women's groups in the Network. Women from different cultures will exhibit their music, dance and crafts, and share traditional food. There will be supervised activities for children, including a bouncy castle and face painting and local health and voluntary service providers will be invited to attend and share information about their services.	Andover Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	1.08.24	31.08.24	1 Saturday in August TBC	BAMER women in Finsbury Park, Tollington and Arsenal	120 (30 in Arsenal)	500	2,300	300 HNG staff time	The amount requested is £2,000 from 3 wards.
Arsenal	Jubba Youth Community Association	Fifa and Chill Project	Weekly BAMER youth club, working with young men who are demotivated or failing to access work or education opportunities, mostly in the 14-21 age bracket. They hope to provide young men with the skills and strength of character to resist pressure to join gangs, as well as building their confidence, courage and self-discipline.	Andover Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	1.5.2024	31.08.24	Weekly sessions from 1.5.24 to	Boroughwide, 10 from Arsenal	58 young BAMER men	1000	1,000	No detail given	
Arsenal	LBI Islington Ecology Centre	Islam and Nature	A series of events connecting the local Muslim community to the nature reserve for better physical and mental wellbeing. The series of events will be planned with local Muslim organisations with the aim of making the Muslim community feel welcome in Islington's green spaces. The current suggestion is for two children's events with activities like nature crafts and birdwatching, a women's only event such as a mindfulness walk and tea, 3 x women's Qi Gong sessions, two Islam and Nature walks and a walk focused on Islamic environmentalists.	Islington Ecology Centre and Gillespie Park, 191 Drayton Park, London N5 1PH	1.05.24	1.09.25	9 events between 1.05.24 and 1.09.24	Muslim community (mostly women and Somalis) boroughwide	150 (75 Arsenal)	2,972	2,972	No detail given	
Arsenal	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10,000	618	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Arsenal	Wu Shi Taiji Qun & Qi Gong Association	Sit, Stand, Walk, Talk	Sit, Stand, Walk, Talk is a free community wellbeing programme for older residents living with long term health conditions. Traditional Tai Chi and Qi Gong classes are offered which teach gentle movement and balance skills and can be done seated or standing. Respiratory awareness and breathing techniques are also taught. The meditative and holistic classes are achievable for those in pain and those who are unable to practise other common exercises (such as Yoga or Zumba). Funding for 3 weeks of classes with 4 classes (2 in person and 2 online) per week.	Ground Floor, 20 Blackstock Road, N4 2DW	26.2.24	18.3.24	4 x 1 hour sessions weekly between 26.2.24 and 18.3.24	Older people with disabilities and long term health conditions	70	930	930	No detail given	
Barnsbury	Culpeper Community Garden Association	Colour for Culpeper Park- Replanting and rewilding of Planters & wildlife area	Aims & objectives, to continue to improve Culpeper Park, and the nearby planters, with new plantings, flowers and herbs. Their main objective is to encourage at least 6 local people from Dewey Street to work with Culpeper volunteers on this task. 1. Plant with drought-tolerant species of herbs 4 large planters located at Dignum Street, Dewey Road and Maygood Street. 2 of these were originally planted up by Culpeper Garden as part of their Herbs & Healing project in 2019, managed by their Project Worker and using both Culpeper volunteers and local people. 2. Create a mini-wildflower meadow using seeds and plug plants along the edge of the boundary of the Park & the Garden- the meadow will be protected by a living willow fence also to be designed and built by Culpeper Volunteers and their local neighbours. 3. Create 3 tree pits around larger trees along the boundary pathway at the dewey Road end of the Park.	Culpeper Park, Tolpuddle Street	May-24	Nov-24		Barnsbury 10 Cannonbury	Does not give a figure but would benefit the community at large.	650	£1,079	£395	
Barnsbury	Heritage Charity London	HCL's Community Walking Project	The "HCL Community Walking Project" at Barnard Park is a family-oriented initiative organised by Heritage Charity London, aiming to promote physical activity and strengthen familial bonds in Islington. The project encourages children and one parent to engage in regular walking activities, fostering a healthier lifestyle and a deeper connection to the local community. Carefully selected walking routes provide opportunities for families to explore and engage with their neighborhood, advocating the numerous benefits of walking and promoting overall well-being. The objective is to enhance the quality of life for participating families and install healthy habits that last a lifetime. The walking project is designed to run twice per week supporting 40 community beneficiaries per week for an entire month.	Barnsbury Park, Islington, London, N1 1HQ	Apr-24	Jun-24	run twice per week supporting 40 community beneficiaries per week for an entire month.	160 beneficiaries in total Barnsbury 40, Clerkenwell 30, Laycock 30, St Peters Canal side 30, St Mary's and St James 30	160	1,000	5,100	3000 from TFL	
Barnsbury	Light Project Pro International	Seated Exercise Classes	Funding for a term (2 x sessions per week for 24 weeks) of seated exercise classes for mostly older people and some middle aged people with injuries or medical conditions, followed by a coffee/social group and health information sessions. The classes will be delivered by Healthy Generations, it currently runs 1 day per week and is oversubscribed.	The Exchange, Watkinson Road, London, N7 8DE	1.4.2024	30.9.24	1.4.2024 to 30.09.24, 2 sessions a week for 24 weeks	Older people of Laycock, Caledonian, Barnsbury and Holloway wards	50 (5 from Barnsbury)	233.91	3,920	1920 room hire x 48	The amount requested is £2,000 from 2 wards.
Barnsbury	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10,000	850	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Barnsbury	The Elfrida Society	Elfrida Sports Project	The sports project aims to enhance the well-being of residents with LDAD (learning disabilities, autism and learning difficulties) by providing tailored weekly one hour sports sessions to improve physical and mental health, foster a sense of belonging and promote social inclusion. Sessions are free and tailored to participants' abilities. The majority of people supported are from low-income families and/or unemployed. Currently there is fitness on Mondays, tennis on Wednesdays, football on Thursdays, cricket on Fridays and some tournaments on the weekend.	Islington Tennis Centre and Gym, Market Rd, London N7 9PL	1.4.24	31.3.25	Weekly sessions from 1.4.24 to 31.3.25	Boroughwide	100	227.82	19,362	15489.6 from other funders	The amount requested is £3,873 from all wards.

Barnsbury	EGA School	Student Gardening Club	The Eco Student Leader and Eco Champions want to use the funding to open a gardening club concentrating on planting environmentally friendly plant life in both the garden space and the school grounds. The £750 requested is for the planting and tools and will allow students ranging from yr7-yr11 to be involved in the gardening club	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School, Dorregal St, N1 9QS	Apr-24	Mar-24	Planting will take place on an ongoing basis	Barnsbury 10 Cannonbury	Quoted 900 which is not realistic	500	750	0		
Barnsbury	EGA School Green Careers Fair	Student Gardening Club	The Eco Student Leader and Eco Champions want to use the funding to open a gardening club concentrating on planting environmentally friendly plant life in both the garden space and the school grounds. The £750 requested is for the planting and tools and will allow students ranging from yr7-yr11 to be involved in the gardening club	Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School, Dorregal St, N1 9QS	Apr-24	Mar-24	Planting will take place on an ongoing basis	Barnsbury 10 Cannonbury	Quoted 900 which is not realistic	700	1600	0		
Bunhill	LBI Community Partnerships (Vibast Community Centre)	Community Lunch and Tea Dance	They aim to hold 10 community lunches and 10 tea dances for local residents. Both will be held monthly at the Vibast from April 2024 to March 2025 (excluding August and December). The lunches will cater for up to 25 residents, and the tea dances for up to 40 residents. People will be able to attend both, but there will be no expectation that participants will be the same for both events. Catering will be provided by external caterers (local), and served/ supported by Vibast staff and volunteers. Similarly, the tea dance will be led by an external dance leader (Edirne - aka Vera the Diva), supported by Vibast staff and volunteers. Publicity and Promotion will be done by the Vibast, with support from local networks.	Vibast Centre, 167 Old Street, EC1V 9NH	01-Apr-24	31-Mar-25	One year - excluding August & Dec	Bunhill	50	1,425	3,250		The figures here are incorrect, each funding should add to £1,950	
Bunhill	Bag of Taste	Mentored at Home Budget Cooking Course	Home cooking course where referred participants struggling with the cost of food cook 3 healthy, tasty and affordable recipes over 2 weeks, mentored via Whatsapp or phone. Participants are given ingredients, recipe cards and a knife sharpener. Priority groups worked with include single parent households, people with disabilities and care leavers.	Home based	1.05.24	1.10.24	2 week course multiple offered across the year	Low income individuals in Arsenal, Bunhill, Laycock and Holloway - 94% of the last cohort received benefits, and majority in 30-60 age range.	28 (7 each ward)	561	5000		No detail given	The amount requested is £2,324 from 4 wards (£581 per ward).
Bunhill	London Autism Group Charity	Old Street Community Café	Old Street Community Café warmly welcomes the entire Autistic community, including Autistic individuals and their carers, with no official diagnosis necessary, providing a safe space to meet, chat, and enjoy hot drinks with friendly volunteers.	Vibast Community Centre, 167 Old Street, EC1V 9NH	Apr-24	Apr-25	April 2024 to April 2025, third Sunday of every month at 11am-1pm (2 hours)	Autistic individuals from across London and their families and carers	At least 11 from Islington (4 from Bunhill, 2 from Clerkenwell)	917.95	12520		Not mentioned	The amount requested is £12,520 from 2 wards (£6,260 per ward).
Bunhill	St Luke's Parochial Trust	St Luke's Summer Festival	St Luke's Summer Festival is an annual celebration that brings local residents together, creating lasting connections and memories and building a sense of community. A popular and vibrant event delivers a diverse range of activities and entertainment that are suitable for all ages, interests and cultures, it promotes active community engagement, shares information about local services and activities and aims to improve the wellbeing of local residents. One of the main aims of the Summer Festival is to strengthen the bonds among community members by providing a platform for interaction and shared experiences. Funding request to cover workshop facilitators and distribution of flyers	90 Central Street, EC1V 9AJ - both inside the community centre and outside in our Edible Yard	01-May-24	24-Jun-24	Actual Event date 22 June 24 11-3pm	Bunhill 400, Clerkenwell 50, St Peters Canalside 50	500	1,000	2,680.00	1,680		
Caledonian	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10,000	500	15,500	3000 MWH funding		The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Canonbury	Isledon Arts CIC	Rose Bowl Summer Celebration 2024	Rose Bowl delivers an annual community event called the Summer Celebration. This takes place in St Pauls Open Space, a small park, located directly outside the Rose Bowl. Having launched in 2017, the Summer Celebration is now an established community event, attended by droves of Canonbury residents rain or shine. There are a have a range of activities and spectacles planned, so there will be something for everyone to enjoy. This will include dance and live performances; circus skills and creative activities, bouncy castles, flowerpot arranging, food and refreshments etc. This year, they want the Canonbury community to have the memorable experience of a mobile zoo being in attendance with reptiles, invertebrates and wild birds. They will also be introducing new facilitators, such as Face painters and a party entertainer.	St Paul's Park, Ramsey Walk, N1 2PT	Jul-24	Jul-24	One day event	Canonbury 260, Highbury East 25, Midway 25, St Marys & St James 20, Laycock10, St Peters Canalside 10.	350	3,553	6,470	2,300		Funding a total of £4170: £3,553.24 in Round 3 2023/24 and £617 Round 1 2024/25.
Canonbury	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10000	300	15,500	3000 MWH funding		The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Clerkenwell	Artistry Youth Dance	'Testimony' - a youth dance project	The project aims to develop dance, performance, and choreography skills amongst a select group of young people from youth dance company, Artistry Youth Dance. The project will engage participants in a series of dance workshops, whilst working with 2 professional choreographers. The dance styles included will be dance forms of the African Diaspora (Caribbean and/or African dance styles), fused with Jazz and Contemporary dance, providing the chance to learn about the cultural heritage of the styles. This follows on from successful projects delivered in 2022 and 2023 that we aim to deliver to new young people. The proposed workshop will take place over a twelve week period between 15 April and 31 August, 2024. The project will culminate in a public performance scheduled for August 2024, to be held at Lilian Baylis Studio theatre, Sadler's Wells - benefiting Islington residents by enabling them to see dance and young people perform. Seeking for Choreographer x 2 fee - 20 hrs @ £50/hr £1000 x 2	Sadler's Wells - Rosebery Ave, EC1R 4TN The Dang - 259-263 Goswell Rd., London EC1V 7AH	Apr-24	Aug-24		Holloway 100, Clerkenwell, 315	415	175	5,812	3,812.40		unsecured match funding £1,262.40 Sadler's Wells
Clerkenwell	Bridging the Gap Islington	Mentoring Bethany House residents	Bridging the Gap Mentoring provides volunteer mentors for people at risk of homelessness or rebuilding their lives after experience of the criminal justice system or substance misuse. They recruit, train and support mentors. Mentors are individually matched with a service user. They will meet the service user about once a week for four months. Mentors encourage and support service users to achieve goals chosen by the service user, they have worked with Bethany House residents and staff over many years. Their volunteer mentors meet some Bethany House residents regularly each week and help them with financial issues, finding places to live and generally integrating into the London community.	Bethany House, 13 Lloyd Square, London WC1X 9AR	Apr-24	Aug-24	Over 16 weekly session	Clerkenwell	6	950	1,250		No detail given	
Clerkenwell	Exmouth Market Centre	Early Years Education Project	4 sessions a week (during term times) for parents/ carers and their pre-school children, run by a highly skilled and talented practitioner who writes her own songs and music, making music and singing. The projects helps young children learn skills and improves listening, concentration, communication and physical co-ordination. The projects helps adults by improving confidence and new skills to be shared with their children.	Exmouth Market Centre EC1R 4QE	Apr-24	Oct-24	2 sessions Thursdays and 2 sessions Fridays, term times only, (80 1 hour sessions in total)	Delivered in Clerkenwell. App says 'majority' people are from local area, but does not specify a breakdown	180 children plus 170 adults (350 in total)	1,500	2,500	0		
Clerkenwell	Hugh Myddelton Primary School	Improving Attendance	The school wants run free catch up morning sessions (two a week) for 12 weeks and a fortnightly coffee morning for parents for 6 sessions targeted at those children/families who have lost the most learning during lockdown.	Hugh Myddelton Primary School EC1R 1YJ	Jan-24	Jul-24	Jan 2024-July 2024 (30 sessions in total)	Clerkenwell	35 children and 15 parents (90 families in total)	1,980	3,760		From school resources	

Clerkenwell	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10,000	130	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Clerkenwell	The Elfrida Society	Elfrida Sports Project	The sports project aims to enhance the well-being of residents with LDAD (learning disabilities, autism and learning difficulties) by providing tailored weekly one hour sports sessions to improve physical and mental health, foster a sense of belonging and promote social inclusion. Sessions are free and tailored to participants' abilities. The majority of people supported are from low-income families and/or unemployed. Currently there is fitness on Mondays, tennis on Wednesdays, football on Thursdays, cricket on Fridays and some tournaments on the weekend.	Islington Tennis Centre and Gym, Market Rd, London N7 9PL	1.4.24	31.3.25	Weekly sessions from 1.4.24 to 31.3.25	Boroughwide	100	50	19,362	15489.6 from other funders	The amount requested is £3,873 from all wards.
Clerkenwell	Singalong Songs CIC	Mrs H Sings	Mrs H Sings is a free live music event for children and families with an emphasis on audience participation, theatrical engagement and communal singing. The 3 x weekly events reduce social isolation and strengthen family bonds through the experience of singing and dancing together with a group of musicians.	24 Exmouth Market Centre, ECR 4QE	3.06.24	Ongoing	3 x weekly sessions, ongoing	Young children in the South locality	350 weekly	239.25	£300 per week	Not given	The amount requested is £957 from 4 wards (£239.25 per ward).
Finsbury Park / Tollington	Holloway Neighbourhood Group on behalf of Finsbury Park Women's Group Network	Summer Celebration for Women	Multicultural women's event with the aim of enhancing social cohesion, reducing isolation and celebrating cultural diversity. The event will be planned by a steering group made up of representatives from different BAMER women's groups in the Network. Women from different cultures will exhibit their music, dance and crafts, and share traditional food. There will be supervised activities for children, including a bouncy castle and face painting and local health and voluntary service providers will be invited to attend and share information about their services.	Andover Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	1.08.24	31.08.24	1 Saturday in August TBC	BAMER women in Finsbury Park, Tollington and Arsenal	120 (60 Finsbury Park, 30 Tollington)	1,000	2300	£300 HNG staff time	The amount requested is £2,000 from 3 wards.
Finsbury Park	LBI Community Partnerships - Andover Community Centre (Eid in April 2024)	Eid in April 2024	An event following on from a similar one last year to mark Eid. There will be face painting, food, henna and an exhibition explaining Islam.	Andover Community Centre, Corker Walk, London, N7 7RY	Apr-24	Apr-24	04/09/2024	Residents in Finsbury Park	250	725	1500	£321 from Centre funds	
Highbury	Healthy Minds Healthy Bods	HMHB Outings and Events	HMHB will organise five group outings (monthly April to August) to events/ places across London with the aim of providing social interaction for people and boosting peoples' confidence, especially post covid.	Across Islington, but HMHB are Highbury based	Apr-24	Aug-24	April to August 2024, five sessions delivered once per month	Islington wide, but focussed on Highbury	50	1000	1,000	n/a	Application fits with Council priorities
Highbury	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10000	911.77	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Highbury	The Elfrida Society	Elfrida Sports Project	The sports project aims to enhance the well-being of residents with LDAD (learning disabilities, autism and learning difficulties) by providing tailored weekly one hour sports sessions to improve physical and mental health, foster a sense of belonging and promote social inclusion. Sessions are free and tailored to participants' abilities. The majority of people supported are from low-income families and/or unemployed. Currently there is fitness on Mondays, tennis on Wednesdays, football on Thursdays, cricket on Fridays and some tournaments on the weekend.	Islington Tennis Centre and Gym, Market Rd, London N7 9PL	1.4.24	31.3.25	Weekly sessions from 1.4.24 to 31.3.25	Boroughwide	100	227.83	19,362	15489.6 from other funders	The amount requested is £3,873 from all wards.
Highbury	Community Partnerships Team	Gardner Court TRA activation event	This will be a chance for the residents of Gardner Court to come together and network with the aim of helping those who are interested in establishing a network and TRA across the large estate to come together and reach other residents. All blocks will be included as well as refreshments and activities for all ages.	Gardner Court	May-24	Aug-24	Summer 2024	All residents living in Gardner Court. We will specifically target through notice boards and leafleting.	15-200	1237	1237	not mentioned	
Holloway	Bags of Taste	Mentored at Home Budget Cooking Course	Home cooking course where referred participants struggling with the cost of food cook 3 healthy, tasty and affordable recipes over 2 weeks, mentored via Whatsapp or phone. Participants are given ingredients, recipe cards and a knife sharpener. Priority groups worked with include single parent households, people with disabilities and care leavers.	Home based	1.05.24	1.10.24	2 week course- multiple offered across the year	Low income individuals in Arsenal, Burnhill, Laycock and Holloway - 94% of the last cohort received benefits, and majority in 50-60 age range.	28 (7 each ward)	581	5000	No detail given	The amount requested is £2,324 from 4 wards (£581 per ward).
Holloway	Caledonian Park Friends Group (Herbs for All)	Herbs for All 2024	Delivering a series of workshops and community growing/tasting activities. CPFG will plant up our four new Veg Trugs (total of 6 trugs and 2 raised beds) with salad herbs, edible flowers, and salad vegetables, adding more varied herbs from around the world and growing salad leavers over the winter season. Will also hold 3 more of the very successful workshops on using herbs to use left-overs, to add nutrition, household uses etc.	Caledonian Park and Clock Tower Centre in Caledonian Park, N7 9PL	24-Mar	24-Oct	March-Oct 2024	Primarily Holloway ward residents	50+ households	650	850	£200 CPFG own funds	
Holloway	Clocktower Residents Group (CRG) Committee (Parkside Estate TRA) and the Caledonian Park Friends Group (CPFG)	Clocktower Festival	Clocktower Festival was established a big, successful Fun Day for the whole community in 2016. It was an annual event up until covid and this year it will be re-established on 4th August. Activities include DJ, music, face painting, food and drink, stalls, sports activities, health and wellbeing, tours of the Clocktower etc	Caledonian Park N7 9PL	August	August	January 2024- August 2024 (for planning)	Primarily Holloway, Caledonian and Laycock wards	740	1,800	9240	Southern Housing £3,900; £1,500 own funds, £840 LBI Greenspace; £1,200 other funders	
Holloway	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10000	911.77	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Holloway	The Elfrida Society	Elfrida Sports Project	The sports project aims to enhance the well-being of residents with LDAD (learning disabilities, autism and learning difficulties) by providing tailored weekly one hour sports sessions to improve physical and mental health, foster a sense of belonging and promote social inclusion. Sessions are free and tailored to participants' abilities. The majority of people supported are from low-income families and/or unemployed. Currently there is fitness on Mondays, tennis on Wednesdays, football on Thursdays, cricket on Fridays and some tournaments on the weekend.	Islington Tennis Centre and Gym, Market Rd, London N7 9PL	1.4.24	31.3.25	Weekly sessions from 1.4.24 to 31.3.25	Boroughwide	100	227.82	19,362	15489.6 from other funders	The amount requested is £3,873 from all wards.
Junction	Archway Market / ArchWay With Words	Archway with Words	To create an interdisciplinary project looking at what causes windblight, and to facilitate artistic and musical expression inspired by the wind. There will be an interactive display board on Archway Market with free kinetic art kits, with a plan to grow the project (maybe with Film?) to an number of venues and with more practitioners.	Initially Navigator Square N19 3TD	Apr-24	Sep-24	April to September 2024	Junction, Holloway and Hillrise wards	4,000	1,315	1815	£500 Seven Capital	
Junction	Brennard	Community Gallery Space	The Toy Project is opening a Community Gallery where local artists will be able to display their work for free in exchange for providing free workshops for adults and children using their services	99 Junction Road	Jan-24	On going	From January 2024 and on-going	Not specified	Not specified	500	0	Not mentioned	

Junction	Tremlett Grove Gardening Group (planters)	Refurbishing community planters	The funding requested is for refurbishing 6 community planters before the planting session this year. The residents have previously repaired 4 planters using their own funds but the volunteers now need to repair these planters using scaffolding boards and screws.	Brennard Court Community Vegetate Garden, Tremlett Grove Estate, N19	Apr-24	Jun-24	April - June 2024	20 households with upto 50 residents	50-100	500	500	Not mentioned	
Junction	LBI Homes and Neighbourhoods - Estate Services (Linden Walk security works)	Linden Walk Gate	Installation of a gate to prevent ASB at Linden Walk, Hargrave Park Estate	Linden Walk	Apr-24	Apr-24	Apr-24	Junction	20-30	1,275	1275	n/a	
Junction	LBI Homes and Neighbourhoods - Estate Services (Salisbury Walk environmental improvements)	Salisbury Walk Gate	Installation of a gate to prevent ASB at Salisbury Walk, Girdlestone Estate	Salisbury Walk	Apr-24	Apr-24	Apr-24	Junction	200-500	2,275	2,275	n/a	
Junction	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10000	521.5	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Laycock	Light Project Pro International	Seated Exercise Classes	Funding for a term (2 x sessions per week for 24 weeks) of seated exercise classes for mostly older people and some middle aged people with injuries or medical conditions, followed by a coffee/social group and health information sessions. The classes will be delivered by Healthy Generations, it currently runs 1 day per week and is oversubscribed.	The Exchange, Watkinson Road, London, N7 8DE	1.4.2024	30.9.24	1.4.2024 to 30.09.24, 2 sessions a week for 24 weeks	Older people of Laycock Caledonian, Barnsbury and Holloway wards	50 (35 from Laycock)	490.83	3,920	1920 room hire x 48	The amount requested is £2,000 from 2 wards. 70% from Laycock, 30% from Barnsbury
Laycock	Change, Act!	Theatre in Solidarity	Community film event and panel discussion for a film created by participants in their last LIF funded project. This isn't 'Even the Worst Day of my Life' which looks at housing related issues. This will be followed by a 4.5 hour Inclusive Theatre workshop planned and delivered by 3 residents with disabilities who worked on the film, to 12 new residents with disabilities or long term health issues. The aim of the workshop is to develop the 3 facilitator's leadership skills and provide a space for the other 12 residents to come together and look at solutions for housing related issues.	TBC, possibly Vibast Community Centre	29.4.24	10.06.24	29.04.24 to 10.06.24, one film screening and discussion, one planning session and one workshop	Disabled adults in St Mary's and St James', Laycock and Bunhill	75 (25 each ward)	819.12	2457.35 or 1140	N/A	The amount requested is £2,457 from 3 wards (£819 per ward) or £1140 (£380 per ward) if the higher figure is not possible
Laycock	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10000	911.73	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Laycock	The Elfrida Society	Elfrida Sports Project	The sports project aims to enhance the well-being of residents with LDAD (learning disabilities, autism and learning difficulties) by providing tailored weekly one hour sports sessions to improve physical and mental health, foster a sense of belonging and promote social inclusion. Sessions are free and tailored to participants' abilities. The majority of people supported are from low-income families and/or unemployed. Currently there is fitness on Mondays, tennis on Wednesdays, football on Thursdays, cricket on Fridays and some tournaments on the weekend.	Islington Tennis Centre and Gym, Market Rd, London N7 9PL	1.4.24	31.3.25	Weekly sessions from 1.4.24 to 31.3.25	Boroughwide	100	227.83	19,362	15489.6 from other funders	The amount requested is £3,873 from all wards.
Midmay	Healthy Generations on behalf of Midmay Extra Care	Music and Movement Sessions for the Elderly	Provision of weekly movement and movement sessions at two extra care facilities in Midmay. Session participants include wheelchair users, frail elderly including those with mental health issues and dementia. These sessions provide participants with exercise, fresh air (they are held outside when possible) as well as social interaction.	73 & 6 Midmay Park N1 4FF	Apr-24	Mar-25	April 2024- March 2025	Midmay	100	2,000	4,000	E600 Housing 21; E600 HG own funds; E800 being fund raised by HG	
Midmay	LBI Housing Comm Gardening (Larchfield House)	Larchfield House Garden	To support residents with restricted mobility make their own compost and grow their own food.	Larchfield House	Apr-24	Apr-24	April 2024	Midmay	11	400	800	E400 staff time from LBI	
Midmay	St Jude and St Paul's Church	Community Drop In	The community drop in comprises a weekly warm space from 12pm-3pm on a Tuesday, food bank, lunch club and warm, welcoming space for people to socialise	St Jude and St Pauls Church	Apr-24	Jun-24	April to June 2024	Midmay	70-90	312	7,220	E750 church; E900 individuals; £1,250 community chest; £1,850 other grants	
Midmay	The Garden Classroom	The Wonderful World of Bees	The Wonderful World of Bees - ten, full day, hands on sessions for groups of 8-10 SEN children attending Samuel Rhodes School using their apiaries in Gillespie Park building on previous work with the school. Samuel Rhodes is a specialist school attended by pupils with learning needs and pupils with a range of different diagnoses (e.g. MLD, complex autism, ADHD, ODD, severe speech and language delay, down's syndrome). The Garden Classroom teaches children about the important role of bees in the ecosystem and showing them how they can help to protect bees. As well as visiting the hives, children learn about the uses of wax and make wax candles, learn bee facts and explore the concept of pollination through engaging drama. Last year they worked with 108 children in their bee sessions with over 70% of these being SEN beneficiaries. Funding to pay for the facilitator and the beekeeper for 10 days.	Gillespie Park Nature Reserve	Apr-24	Aug-24	April to August 2024, ten full day sessions delivered weekly during term time	Pupils of Samuel Rhodes School	80 from across Islington	669	3,450	E1,000 school (subsidised rate of £100 per session)	
Midmay	Wells Court Communal Garden	25-35 Wells Court Communal Garden Improvement Project.	The project aims to improve the communal garden at block 25-35 Wells Court for the benefit of all, by adding nature-friendly planting to boost biodiversity and improve wellbeing and mental health of residents. This is not a constituted group but the funds will be held by LBI Gardening project. The total costs of £330.86 will go towards planting shrubs in the Summer of 2024. There will be 11 households involved in this project and a total of 20 Islington Residents volunteering to improve the local area.	25-25 Wells Court	Jul-24	25-Jul	Shrubs will be planted in the Summer July 2024	11 households with 20 residents will be involved with planting these improvements in the communal garden	20	330.86	330.86	N/A	
Midmay	Muslim Welfare House (Eid Festival in Highbury Fields Park in June 2024)	Eid in the Park	Funding for the Eid in The Park event at Highbury Fields in June 2024. This is the third consecutive year of running the event, 2022 and 2023 saw an average of 8000 users attend. The event will include speeches from special guests, Eid Prayer in the park, a fun fair, cultural food, cultural music, games, and a traditional clothing exhibition/stalls for the public to view and try on. There will also be face painting for children and henna tattoos for adults. All are welcome; their aim is to bring the public together and foster mutual understanding.	Highbury Fields Park, Highbury Crescent, N5 1AR	17.06.24	17.06.24	One day event 17.06.24	Boroughwide	10000	504	15,500	3000 MWH funding	The amount requested is £15,500 from all wards.
Laycock / Midmay	The Garden Classroom	Community Volunteer Gardening	Funding for a 3 month volunteering project to improve Newington Green and Market Road gardens (part of a larger 5 year project to improve gardens across the borough). Twice weekly two hour volunteering sessions led by a Green Spaces Officer, the funding will cover their salary. The volunteers will plant hedges, flowers and grasses, introduce biodiversity measures, e.g. bug hotels, and maintain park features like play trails and storytelling areas.	Newington Green, N1 4RF Market Road Gardens, N7 9PW	29.4.24	30.08.24	29.4.24 to 30.08.24, 2 sessions a week for 12 weeks	Mostly older Laycock and Midmay residents plus park visitors as indirect beneficiaries	94 direct	960	48,425	46,505 from other funders	The amount requested is £1920 from 2 wards (£960 per ward).





Junction	<b>LBI Junction Ward Partnership</b>	<b>LBI Junction Ward Partnership</b>	Junction ward partnership meeting on 24 January. Agenda items included the new Creative Enterprise Zone in Archway, the Dartmouth Park Healthy Neighbourhood, crime in the ward and how it's being tackled as well as planning updates on the Archway Campus, Ocado, Vorley Road and the Methodist Hall. Funding to pay for refreshments.	Whittington Park Community Centre, Yerbury Road, N19 4RS	Jan-24	Jan-24	Wednesday 24 January 2024	Local residents	21 attended	<b>21.50</b>	21.50	Not mentioned	
Tollington	<b>LBI Tollington Ward Partnership Fun Day</b>	LBI Tollington ward partnership fun day	Costs for distribution of ward partnership publicity by a delivery service. These costs ended up being higher than expected.	Briekworks Community Centre, 42 Crouch Hill, N4 4BY	Oct-23	Oct-23	Saturday 21 October 2023	Local residents	100 to 200	<b>125</b>	2,129.61	E2004.61 awarded to this event in November 2023.	
Arsenal	<b>LBI Arsenal Ward Partnership</b>	Arsenal Ward Partnership	The Arsenal councillors are hosting a second Fun Day Ward Partnership event which is a collaborative, interactive event where Islington residents can engage with councillors, officers, and other local organisations. There will be activities for families and opportunities to speak to relevant local figures. Funding to pay for refreshments, giant chess, soft play, facepainting, printing and stationery.	Aubert Court Community Centre, Avenell Rd, N5 1BL	Nov-23	Nov-23	Saturday 25 November 2023	Local residents	Attended by around 20 members of the public	<b>741.58</b>	741.58	No detail given	

**Total 61289.04**

## WARD BUDGET REALLOCATIONS REPORTED TO VCS COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 2023 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

Ward	Project / organisation	Project title/ brief summary	Year / month awarded	Original Award:	Reallocation amount:	Reason:
Laycock	Ellington Street Residents Association	Arundel Community Fireworks	July 23	1500	1,000.00	Event did not go ahead due to the playground in the park being under construction. Councillors have allowed them to keep £500 towards a future event.
Caledonian	LBI Housing Community Gardening on behalf of Lyon House resident	Lyon House gardening project	July 22	500.00	58.94	Underspend
St Peters and Canonbury	LBI Tree Service	St Peters St tree planting	March 2023	1,500.00	1,500.00	Tree put up was not type Cllr wanted
Arsenal, Highbury, Finsbury Park	LBI Inclusive Economy	Finsbury Park Festive Book Giveaway	Nov-22	850	300 from Arsenal, 300 from Highbury, 250 from Finsbury Park	Event did not go ahead.
Canonbury	Almorah Community Centre	Almorah CC garden improvements and gardening club	Nov 23	1,910.00	300.00	Public liability insurance budgeted for and not needed.
Canonbury	Ldnationunited	Sports equipment	March 2022	500	500.00	Club has folded.

**WARD BUDGET REALLOCATIONS REPORTED TO VCS COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 2023 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

Ward	Project / organisation	Project title/ brief summary	Year / month awarded	Original Award:	Reallocation amount:	Reason:
Mildmay	LBI Estate Services (on behalf of Kerridge Court TRA)	Bench on estate in memory of former Chair	Nov 22	900	45	Underspend
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,403.44</b>	

<b>Total LIF funding requested - third round</b>	
New proposals for March VCS Committee:	£61,289
Funding carried across from November/ second round:	£64,890
Reallocations:	£3,403
Total carried across to 24/25:	£7,004

<b>2023-24 Balance remaining by ward:</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Balance:</b>
Arsenal	£1,000
Barnsbury	£0
Bunhill	£0
Caledonian	£694
Canonbury	£0
Clerkenwell	£0
Finsbury Park	£755
Highbury	£1,000
Hillrise	£361
Holloway	£1,000
Junction	£0
Laycock	£1,000
Mildmay	£0
St Mary's & St James'	£277
St Peter's & Canalside	£0
Tollington	£0
Tufnell Park	£500

Total carried over to 24/25: **£6,587**

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Community Engagement and Wellbeing  
Islington Town Hall, Upper Street  
N1 2UD

Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of: Voluntary and Community Sector Committee

Date: 25 March 2024

Ward(s): All

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## Islington Council Venues Community Free Hires Scheme Round 2 2023-24

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1. Each year, Islington Council is pleased to offer eight community groups, schools and colleges, arts and cultural organisations based in Islington the chance to have free use of Islington Assembly Hall and selected Town Hall meeting rooms for five hours
- 1.2. The application window for Round 2 was offered over January and February 2024 for hall hires June – Mid September 2024 (Assembly Hall) and June to December 2024 (Town Hall Rooms)..
- 1.3. Fourteen applications were received in total for Round 2 2024. Eleven were received for the Assembly Hall and three for the Town Hall.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That these organisation be offered a free hire use of the Assembly Hall between June and September 2024:
  - Proud Sports
  - Prior Weston Primary School
- 2.2. To hold the following applicant in reserve, in case of inability of the above applicants to negotiate appropriate dates and timings:

- Britain's Got Reggae CIC
- 2.3. That these two organisations be offered a free hire use of the Town Hall Committee Rooms between June and December 2024:
- Imece Women's Centre
  - Cape Adventure Playground
- 2.4. To hold the following applicant in reserve, in case of inability of the above applicants to negotiate appropriate dates and timings:
- Artbox London

## Background

- 2.5. There are two different packages available to organisations depending on the nature of the event and/or number of guests and audiences. The Council reserves the right to decide on the option more suitable for events:
- 2.6. The Assembly Hall - for fairs, conferences and networking events with an audience of over 100 people, musical performances with a small number of performers, and other simple performances. The free hire scheme is offered on selected Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, January to Mid-March 2024 (1st round), and between June to Mid-September 2024 (2nd round).
- 2.7. The Town Hall rooms - for smaller conferences, workshops and collaborative networking events with an audience between 25 to 80 people - depending on layout of the room, and whether attendees are seated or standing up. The Town Hall free hire is offered on working days Monday – Friday, between 9am and 5pm from January – May 2024 (1st round); and June - December 2024 (2nd round) subject to availability.
- 2.8. The second round of the 2023-24 scheme was launched on 18 January 2024 and was promoted during 4 weeks through LBI Communications on the council external website, as well as through Voluntary Action Islington news group, to the 11 by 11 partnership of cultural organisations, schools bulletins and the wider sector via LBI departments.
- 2.9. The scheme received 14 applications from organisations supporting a range of events (see Appendix 1).
- 2.10. Applications have been assessed against the published criteria (see Appendix 2) which requires applicants to demonstrate a commitment to provide events and activities that have a strategic value and, in particular, a focus on at least one of the following four areas:



1. community cohesion
2. children and young people
3. diversity
4. creative ways of engaging local residents and, in particular, those who might otherwise miss out on cultural opportunities.
5. Have a borough-wide impact
6. Demonstrate a commitment to good practice (events that are viable, of high quality, well managed and evaluated)
7. Promote Islington Assembly Hall as a focus for high quality events, or demonstrating good use of the civic space at the Town Hall, making best use of the high quality facilities available in both venues

2.11. **The scheme does not support:**

- Groups that are not based in the borough of Islington
- Events or activities from commercial organisation
- More than one usage per applicant per year
- Organisations who do not have the funding in place to support their event at the time of application
- Applications from organisations who have previously cancelled a slot once accepted
- Applications from departments of Islington Council

2.12. Wherever possible, unsuccessful applicants will be supported, to secure alternative premises for their work.

2.13. The following organisations and events most closely meet the criteria and are recommended for free use of the Assembly Hall.

<p><b>Proud Sports</b></p> <p>All-inclusive Yoga and Thai Chi event</p>	<p>The Proud Sports All-Inclusive Yoga and Tai Chi event offers a welcoming and inclusive space for individuals of all backgrounds (particularly from the LGBTQ+ Community, minority groups and, individuals facing vulnerabilities) to come together and experience the benefits of these ancient practices. This event aims to promote physical well-being, mental relaxation, and community connection, fostering a sense of unity and inclusivity among all attendees.</p>
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<p><b>Prior Weston Primary School</b></p> <p>Whole School Community Summer Music Concert</p>	<p>Summer Music Concert for children from year 1 - 6 to perform in a violin and cello concert for their families and the rest of the school. This will involve around 400 attendees in total, which includes approximately 200 children and their families + school staff. Music teaching is provided by the Charity, Music Masters and all children take part in the provision - including children from deprived backgrounds and those with SEND. This would be an amazing opportunity for our children to perform in a local, but very special venue - something most of them will never get the chance to do.</p>
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2.14. The following two organisations and events most closely meet the criteria and are recommended for free use of the Town Hall rooms

<p><b>Imece Women's Centre</b></p> <p>16 Days of Action event</p>	<p>16 Days of Action event to bring together front-line professionals and service providers to increase awareness and capacity on Violence against Women and Girls</p>
<p><b>Cape Adventure Playground</b></p> <p>Awesome annual away day</p>	<p>Awesome annual away day intends to train and develop all staff looking at our main mission and values for young children. The day also builds morale and lifts spirits for the staff, as workers look forward to company away days because it's a chance to let loose and break away from the confines of their usual working environment</p>

2.15. The following organisation and event met the criteria and are recommended to be **held in reserve for the Assembly Hall**, in case of inability of organisations recommended for free hires listed in 3.9 to negotiate dates and timings with Assembly Hall management.

<p><b>Britain's Got Reggae CIC</b></p> <p>International Reggae Day Meets Windrush event</p>	<p>International Reggae Day Meets Windrush event, including a production about a family that comes over from the Caribbean to the UK. This is a 13-cast production of adults and children that deliver the play in a comical way. We will have previous artists perform that have come through the Britain's Got Reggae Competition. We will have some talks from the Windrush elders about their experiences of arriving in the UK and what it was like.</p>
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- 2.16. The following organisation and event met the criteria and are recommended to be **held in reserve for the Committee Rooms**, in case of inability of organisations recommended for free hires listed in 3.10 to negotiate dates and timings with Town Hall management.

<p><b>Artbox London</b> Art Exhibition</p>	<p>Art Exhibition to support adults with learning disabilities and autism to develop and grow as artists and individuals, find fulfilment through art, and be accepted and appreciated.</p>
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### 3. Implications

#### 3.1. Financial Implications

- 3.1.1. There are no financial implications other than the loss of income as a result of waiving the fees for the four hires of the Assembly Hall which has been built into the business plan for the venue

#### 3.2. Legal Implications

- 3.2.1. The Council can support voluntary and community sector organisations under the wellbeing power in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000. This gives the Council the power to do 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.

#### 3.3. Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

- 3.3.1. There are no environmental implications.

#### 3.4. Equalities Impact Assessment

- 3.4.1. 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.
- 3.4.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report, because the proposed events serve a wide range of communities and support the Council, Voluntary Community Sector and Cultural Enrichment Team priorities. They target

local residents from diverse communities and children and young people, particularly those from low-income households, to engage in range of creative and cultural activities that celebrate the diversity of Islington's communities, as well as giving residents an opportunity to feedback on provision.

## 4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1. The scheme provides an opportunity for the council to support local organisations through free use of the Assembly Hall and civic space. Applications have been assessed through a clear and transparent process.

### Appendices:

- Appendices:
  - Appendix 1 - Table of all applicants, Round 2 23-24
  - Appendix 2 - Eligibility Criteria and Guidance Notes Round 2 2023-24

**Background papers:** None

### Final report clearance:

Authorised by Executive Member for Homes and Communities

Date: 11/03/2024

**Report Author:** Laura Worsley

Email: [laura.worsley@islington.gov.uk](mailto:laura.worsley@islington.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX 1

### Islington Council Venues Free Community Use Scheme

All Applicants VCS Committee 25 March 2024

Organisation	Event Title	Event Description	Expected Audience	Recommended
<b>Artbox London</b>	Display of Artwork	Art Exhibition	100	<b>RESERVE (Town Hall Rooms)</b>
<b>Britain's Got Reggae CIC</b>	International Reggae Day Meets Windrush	Production about a family that comes over from the Caribbean to the UK and talks from Windrush elders about their experiences of arriving in the UK and what it was like.	400	<b>RESERVE (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>Cape Adventure Playground</b>	Annual service away day	Away day to train and develop all staff towards achieving mission and values for young children as well as building morale and lifting spirit of staff	25	<b>YES (Town Hall Rooms)</b>
<b>Company Three</b>	Film Project	Creative film project and screening with young muslim women's group.	80	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>Coram Shakespeare School's Foundation</b>	Coram Shakespeare Schools Festival	Theatre Festival culminating in grand performances at various professional theatres across the country, where typically 3 to 4 schools present, with casts of up to 35 pupils each.	200	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>Cult. Ass. Hathor</b>	Lullaby- Album release concert	Lullaby album launch event	700	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School</b>	A Starry Night at the Met Gala	Year 11 Leavers Prom - This is an awards ceremony and celebration of the 5yrs of hard work from our Covid Cohort.	180	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>

<b>Imece Women's Centre</b>	VAWG BAME NETWORKING EVENT	16 Days of Action event to bring together front line professionals and service providers to increase awareness and capacity on Violence against Women and Girls	40	<b>YES (Town Hall Rooms)</b>
<b>Islington NHS Talking Therapies</b>	Islington iCope NHS Talking Therapies Team Event	team meeting to give us the rare opportunity to bring our whole team together, to help with team bonding and wellbeing as well as offer a CPD event to our team.	100	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>Prior Weston Primary School</b>	Summer Music Concert	Children from year 1 - 6 to perform in a violin and cello concert for their families and the rest of the school, attended by 400 members of the school community (200 children and their families + school staff)	400	<b>YES (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>Proud Sports</b>	Proud Sports all-inclusive Yoga and Thai Chi	The Proud Sports All-Inclusive Yoga and Tai Chi event offers a welcoming and inclusive space for individuals of all backgrounds and abilities to come together and experience the benefits of these ancient practices.	50 <i>(we will work with the organisation to increase the reach of this event)</i>	<b>YES (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>ReachOut</b>	ReachOut Graduation	We run our mentoring projects during term time in primary and secondary schools across London. This event will celebrate the end of the projects, recognizing the work that each young person has put in and celebrating their achievements.	400	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>The Courtyard school, SMMA</b>	Performance of 'Curious Incident of the dog in the night time'	To perform the school's end of year drama production 'Curious Incident of the dog in the night time'.	70	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>
<b>The Kids Network</b>	Child panels/Group mentoring	We have child panels where we take advice from the children on our programme.	20	<b>NO (Assembly Hall)</b>

## APPENDIX 2

# Islington Council Venues Free Community Use Scheme Eligibility Criteria and Guidance Notes

## Round 2 2023-24

Each year, we are pleased to offer eight Islington community groups, schools and colleges, arts and cultural organisations free hire of Islington Assembly Hall and Town Hall meeting rooms.

There are two different packages depending on the nature of the event and the number of guests and audiences. We reserve the right to decide on the option most suitable for your event.

### Application dates

The free hire scheme round two applications open on **Thursday 18 January 2024** for hiring in:

- June to mid-September 2024 (Islington Assembly Hall)
- June to December 2024 (Islington Town Hall rooms).

If your event takes place after December 2024, applications for round one in 2025 will open in summer 2024.

Year and application round	Application dates	Event period at Assembly Hall	Event period at Town Hall
<b>2024 - round two</b>	Thursday 18 January to Thursday 15 February 2024	June to mid-September 2024	June to December 2024
<b>2025 - round one</b>	July to August 2024 (exact dates to be confirmed)	January to mid-March 2025	January to May 2025
<b>2025 - round two</b>	January to February 2025 (exact dates to be confirmed)	June to mid-December 2025	June to December 2025

### How to apply

Complete the application form to apply for round two (2024) if you would like space during June to mid-September or June to December 2024. You must submit the form by **12pm noon on Thursday 15 February 2024**.

### Option 1 - Islington Assembly Hall

The Assembly Hall is suitable for

- fairs, conferences and networking events with an audience of over 100 people
- musical performances with a small number of performers
- other simple performances.

Islington Assembly Hall is not suitable for a full theatrical performance (with multiple acts, props, sets, complex lighting or audio-visual effects) on a limited budget and other venues might provide a better, cost-effective alternative.

Email [AssemblyHall@islington.gov.uk](mailto:AssemblyHall@islington.gov.uk) if you would like to check if this is the right venue for you.

We will offer:

- two free free hires of the Assembly Hall
- for a maximum of five-hours
- on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- between June to mid-September 2024.

### **What is included in your hire**

The five-hour free hire of the Assembly Hall will include:

- access to Islington Assembly Hall for you and your suppliers for your event
- set-up to meet your needs and furniture, as agreed before the event
- an events coordinator leading up to the event
- at least one duty manager during your event
- one member of the Assembly Hall security team
- a small public address (PA) system that you can use without support from an engineer
- a sound engineer (if needed) for five hours only
- jars of drinking water and three hot water urns
- parking for up to four cars, two vans OR one tour bus from load-in and up to load-out
- free Wi-Fi for production team only
- projector.

### **Security at Islington Assembly Hall**

All events at the Assembly Hall need a risk assessment. We will book security staff based on the risk assessment, but any extra staff we need (one per 100 attendees) you will have to pay for.

Extra security staff start from £180 per member for up to five hours, then £36 per hour after that.

**Security requirements are at the discretion of Islington Assembly Hall to ensure the safety of all attendees at the venue.**

### **Items and services you must pay for**

We will bill all other items and services to you. Extra costs for using the Assembly Hall may include, but are not limited to:

- hire of the hall for more than five hours in a row, from £360 per hour
- use of the balcony - £420 for a five-hour hire
- white tablecloths - £12 per tablecloth
- refreshments - costs available on request. You can bring catering in depending on approval from Islington Assembly Hall.

### **Other free facilities**



- Accessible facilities: the hall has a step-free entrance and step-free bathroom facilities. The hall also has a hearing loop.
- Dressing rooms: there are three large dressing rooms available on request. Let us know your dressing room requirements when booking.

## **Option 2 - Islington Town Hall rooms**

The Town Hall rooms are suitable for events with an audience between 25 and 80 people depending on layout of the room, and whether attendees are seated or standing up.

You can book the Town Hall for:

- workshops
- collaborative working sessions
- networking
- small get-togethers for residents and community groups.

We will offer:

- two free hires of Town Hall rooms
- for a maximum of five hours (all in one block of time)
- on working days from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm
- between 3 June and 21 December 2024 (round 2).

We will make offers depending on availability.

### **What is included in your hire**

The five-hour Town Hall free hire will include:

- access to Islington Town Hall spaces for you and your guests
- setting up the room the way you want
- at least one duty facility officer during your event
- our furniture, tables and chairs
- jars of drinking water
- large plasma LED monitor
- free Wi-Fi.

Other costs may include, but are not limited, to:

- hire of extra stationery such as flipcharts, flipchart paper, and pens
- hire of extra technical equipment like projectors
- any other services that are outside normal working hours
- refreshments - costs available on request.

### **Cancelling or postponing your event**

We can cancel or postpone your event at any time due to exceptional circumstances without incurring liabilities for any losses or damages to the hirer as a result of cancellation.

If we cancel your booking for reasons other than an extraordinary event outside of either party's control within two weeks of the date of the event, we will at our sole discretion try to help the hirer find alternative accommodation for the event.

### **Criteria**

Organisations must demonstrate a commitment to provide events and activities that support the council's strategic priorities by focussing on at least one of the following:

1. community cohesion
2. children and young people
3. Diversity<sup>1</sup>
4. creative ways of engaging local residents and, in particular, those who might otherwise miss out on cultural opportunities.

Applications should be able to demonstrate your event achieves the following:

- having a borough-wide impact
- demonstrating a commitment to good practice (events that are viable, of high quality, well-managed and evaluated)
- promoting Islington Assembly Hall as a focus for high quality events or demonstrating good use of the civic space at the Town Hall, making best use of the high-quality facilities available in both venues.

You must also be able to demonstrate how your organisation will cover any associated costs (if any) alongside the free hire.

The scheme will not support:

- groups that are not based in Islington
- events or activities from commercial organisations
- events that charge entry fees
- organisations that don't have the funding in place to support their event at the time of application
- more than one hire per applicant, per year
- applications from organisations who have previously cancelled a slot after being accepted
- applications from departments of Islington Council.

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<sup>1</sup> The Aspen Institute explains that “Diversity has come to refer to the various backgrounds...that comprise a community, nation or other grouping. In many cases the term diversity does not just acknowledge the existence of diversity of background, race, gender, religion, sexual orientation and so on, but implies an appreciation of these differences.” Diversity is about promoting mutual respect and understanding, moving past tolerance to celebrating the rich dimensions within each individual or group and empowering our entire community. (Islington Challenging Inequality Strategy, March 2021)

Report of: Executive Member for Homes and Communities

Meeting of: Voluntary and Community Sector Committee

Date: 25 March 2024

Wards: All

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## Subject: Islington Council's Community Chest: Continuation of Council's commitment.

### 1. Synopsis

- 1.1** Small voluntary and community organisations play an important role in Islington, helping to build resilient communities and support residents who are experiencing poverty and isolation. Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC), one of the borough's most popular grant programmes, has proved to be a very effective way of funding grassroots activity and developing the capacity of local groups.
- 1.2** This report recommends that Islington Council continues to support the partnership with Cripplegate Foundation for the administering and delivery of Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC) programme for 1 further year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 with a financial commitment of £190,000 per annum which will be reviewed on an annual basis.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1** To agree to the renewal of the council's partnership agreement with Cripplegate Foundation for administering and delivery of the ICCC programme for 1 year from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- 2.2** To agree a financial commitment from the council of £190,000 per annum for the financial year of the ICCC programme 2024/25. To agree a financial reduction of £10,000 to the current agreement of £200,000 per annum.
- 2.3** To agree for the Community Partnership team to work with Cripplegate Foundation to establish and scope a complete review for the ICCC programme beyond 01 April 2025, including priorities, criteria, how the grant is administered and governance.

### 3. Background

- 3.1** ICCC is a partnership between Islington Council and Cripplegate Foundation. It is a small grants programme that funds grassroots activity and brings additional capacity building, networking and development support to local voluntary and community organisations. By providing resources for local groups ICCC helps to build community resilience and to tackle poverty and isolation.
- 3.2** Islington Council is committed to working with the voluntary and community sector (VCS). The council solely awards grant-funding to organisations that are paying employees London Living Wage and has amended our procurement approach so that we only procure services from organisations that pay their staff at least the London Living Wage.
- 3.3** ICCC is one of the borough's most popular grant funding programmes and is available to local organisations with a turnover of no more than £100,000 per year – in most cases less than £50,000 per year. Organisations can apply for one grant of up to £5,000 per year. The priority is to support applications from the most deprived areas of the borough with a focus on:
- respond to the cost-of-living crisis
  - seek to address community safety
  - aim to make Islington a more environmentally sustainable place to live

Cripplegate Foundation has successfully managed community chest programmes in Islington for many years, established in 2011. The council has historically contributed £200,000 per year and Cripplegate Foundation adds £50,000 per year (from which £36,000 per year is deducted to cover the costs of managing the programme).

- 3.4** Cripplegate Foundation commits up to £2,500 a year (inclusive of VAT) towards the costs of holding an annual celebration event to promote the achievements and impact of activity supported through ICCC. This helps to raise awareness of the council's role as main funder of ICCC. Cripplegate and the council will work together to plan these events and to secure in-kind contributions for venue and refreshment costs where possible.
- 3.5** The ICCC panel is made up of representatives from Islington Council, Cripplegate Foundation and the local voluntary sector. Chaired by the council's Executive Member for Homes and Communities, the panel meets three times a year to consider applications.
- 3.6** This panel considers issues of wider relevance to the local voluntary and community sector and reviews priorities annually. These priorities are set in partnership. For 2024/25 consultation will be undertaken with relevant council departments to ensure strategic alignment between the programme and the council's corporate priorities and

the council's recently established outcome areas. In addition, the panel track application trends and identify any gaps in the programme that should be addressed.

- 3.7** In April 2017 the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee decided to transfer full responsibility to ICCC Panel regarding confirming the awarding of grants to VCS Organisations, rather than been required to decide on recommendations made by the panel. This change has helped to streamline the decision making process and reduce delays in notifying VCS organisations of the outcome of their applications. The council's interests are protected by having the Executive Member for Homes and Communities as Chairperson of the ICCC Panel. The VCS Committee continues to receive reports to note decisions made by ICCC Panel in respect of awards through the programme. However, the Council has reserved the right to adjust this arrangement if deemed necessary.
- 3.8** The current management agreement is due to end on 31 March 2024. It is recommended that the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee considers continuing it's commitment to ICCC, with a small reduction, and for Cripplegate Foundation to manage the administration of grants to VCS organisations.
- 3.9** The £10,000 reduction will be repurposed to explore a locality participatory model. The funding will still reach the community, this might be residents themselves, grassroot start up groups and other voluntary sector organisations. This will better align to the council locality model ambitions. This will be scoped out in the first quarter of 24-25 and brought to the VCS Committee.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

The Community Chest budget sits within the Voluntary Community Service department of Community Engagement and Wellbeing, with a 2023-24 budget of £200,000. Therefore, as per the business case to extend the agreement with Cripplegate, the council is in a position to commit £190,000 for a year as this a reduction of £10,000 on the amount already committed.

The total amount available for distribution, excluding any underspends carried forward in each financial year, totals £214,000. On top of this the Cripplegate Foundation fund an annual celebration up to £2,500.

Cripplegate is a long-standing organisation with substantial funds available at its disposal. In the rare event that Cripplegate did have financial difficulties, Islington Council would need to clarify any financial liabilities we may have for the remaining projects. As the council are providing a large share of the total funding (£190,000) paid in three instalments after each funding round. The risks would be minimal.

## 4.2 Legal Implications

The council has power to provide grants for the voluntary and community sector under the General Power of Competence set out in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The provision of grants for the voluntary and community sector as described in this report is not subject to any other statutory provision. In providing these grants the council must ensure that it complies with its duty to secure best value (Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999) and its fiduciary duties to council taxpayers.

## 4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

Most if not all, of the projects funded by this grant have carbon and environmental impacts, including the use of energy, fuel, water, food and drink, materials, prizes, generators, fireworks and printing, while events being funded may create waste or journeys that contribute to transport-related emissions especially if attendees drive.

However, many projects also have positive environmental impacts, including repairing items including bikes, a free library box, planting, greening areas, local food growing and increasing local biodiversity. Wherever possible, projects will be undertaken with regard with the council's goal of achieving a net zero Islington by 2030, as per Islington Council's Environmental Policy.

Cripplegate will endeavour to ask organisations the below when they give out the award letters:

- Show how the projects are complying with the council's Net Zero strategy
- Feedback on what more they'd like to do
- Feedback on the barriers they may have encountered in doing so, how they overcame them
- Let us know the impact this had in terms of mitigating carbon and enabling resilience to the impacts of climate change (increased likelihood of floods, overheating, other extreme weather events)? For example, it would be good for the groups to make provisions so that on days like this, the most vulnerable Islington citizens are still able to get support or volunteer.

## 4.4 Equalities 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.

ICCC provides resources for small community organisations, many of which are volunteer-led, and would not otherwise meet the criteria for funding under other programmes. It enables some of Islington's most disadvantaged residents to access community-based services and activities including through newly established groups who offer the potential for adding to existing provision locally, or who can reach communities that may not otherwise be supported.

## 5. Conclusions and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1** ICCC helps to nurture and sustain an innovative and resilient voluntary and community sector in Islington, in particular providing resources for smaller organisations that find it hard to access funding from other programmes. ICCC is an effective way of developing grass roots activity across the borough and building capacity in local organisations to support residents who are experiencing poverty and isolation.
- 5.2** Islington Council's Community Chest is an effective way of developing grass roots activity across the borough and building capacity in local organisations to support residents who are experiencing poverty and isolation. Continuing this successful partnership that has a direct benefit for local VCS organisations and communities is recommended so that Cripplegate Foundation continues to award on behalf of the council until 31 March 2025.

### Final report clearance:

**Signed by:** Una O'Halloran, Executive Member for Homes and Communities

**Date:** 14/03/24

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