

Report of: Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Wards
Executive	18 June 2020	All
Delete as appropriate	Exempt	Non-Exempt



SUBJECT: Islington Council's Community Chest: Round Three Grant Awards 2019/20

1 Synopsis

- 1.1 Small voluntary and community organisations play an important role in Islington, helping to build community resilience and supporting 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 sets out the organisations approved by Islington Council's Community Chest's Panel for the third round of funding for 2019/20.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To note the funding decisions made by Islington Council's Community Chest Panel in relation to the third round of ICCC grant funding for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1.

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 ICCC 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:
- Advise and support people
 - Educating people and improving their skills and employability
 - Improving people's mental and/or physical health
 - Improving the local environment and making communities safer
 - Reduce isolation and increasing people's involvement in the community
- 3.3 Community Chest programmes in Islington have been successfully managed by Cripplegate Foundation for many years. Under current grant funding arrangements, agreed by VCS Committee in March 2015, the Council provides funding of £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 administering and developing the programme). In addition, Cripplegate Foundation has committed up to £2,500 a year towards the costs of holding an annual celebration event to promote the achievements and impact of activity supported through ICCC.
- 3.4 Applications to the ICCC are considered by the Islington Council Community Chest Panel, (ICCCP) which meets three times a year. The ICCC is Chaired by the Executive Member for Community Development and consists of two nominated ward Councillors, representatives from Cripplegate Foundation and representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector, nominated by the Islington Community Network.
- 3.5 The ICCC also considers issues of wider relevance to the local voluntary and community sector and reviews priorities annually to ensure that the programme continues to meet the needs of Islington's most vulnerable and isolated residents. In addition, panellists track application trends and identify any gaps in the programme that should be addressed.
- 3.6 In April 2017 VCS Committee decided to transfer full responsibility to ICCC regarding confirming the awarding of grants to VCS Organisations, rather than being 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 Community Development as Chairperson of the ICCC. The VCS Committee continues to receive reports to note decisions made by ICCC in respect of awards through the programme. However, the Council has reserved the right to adjust this arrangement if deemed necessary.
- 3.7 To note £3,500 was reimbursed into the ICCC funding pot as a result of a reduction in the amount of funding requested by a previous application and a further £2,025 was reimbursed from a group that ceased operation. This provided an additional £5,525 to carry over into the round 1 funding round. A further historic underspend of £35,974 was identified through a Cripplegate audit. It was agreed to divide this equally into each round for the 2019/20 year (£11,991 per round) with any year end underspend rolled over into the current financial year (2020/21).

4 Round Three Grant Awards 2019/20

- 4.1 The third round of ICCC was widely advertised to local groups through voluntary sector networks and forums, tenants and residents' associations, and on the Islington Council and Cripplegate Foundation websites. Information sessions were arranged for organisations interested in applying to the programme.
- 4.2 £71,334 from the current round, £2667 underspend from the previous round and £11,991 allocated from historic underspend makes a total of £85,992 available to allocate.
- 4.3 A total of 27 applications for funding were received in this round. Two applications were withdrawn leaving a total of 25 applications for the Panel to consider, requesting a total of £112,159.
- 4.4 The ICCC met on 3 March 2020 to consider applications and approved awards totalling £82,585 to 19 projects. Nine of the applications received are from first time applicants. A list of organisations recommended for funding and the proposed grant award for each organisation is set out in Appendix 1.

5 Implications

5.1 Financial implications

- 5.1.1 The Council's grant funding of £200,000 per year referred to in this report has been met from existing budgets allocated to ICCC in the Housing General Fund.
- 5.1.2 At the start of FY19/20 the total sum available for distribution in grants by Cripplegate was £255,498. Grant awards in Round 1+2 totalled £169,508, in Round 3 £82,585 has been paid out; leaving £3,405 remaining to be carried forward into FY20/21.

5.2 Legal Implications

- 5.2.1 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).

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

- 5.3.1 One of the priorities of ICCC is 'improving the local environment and making communities safer'. Funding proposals in this report support grassroots community activity which will have a positive impact on the local environment.
- 5.3.2 Many of the funded projects or activities have environmental implications that include carbon emissions. Some involve using energy and water in buildings, or using resources in the form of building materials or consumable for events or classes, and will also generate waste in some form. Most will involve travel by the organisers or attendees and have the

potential to increase local emissions and congestion unless mitigation measures are put in place.

- 5.3.3 One of the projects encourages the repair and use of bicycles, which should have a positive environmental impact both in terms of reducing waste and encouraging sustainable travel.
- 5.3.4 Due to the Covid 19 outbreak and social distancing measures in place, many centres and offices have been closed and activities are taking place online or digitally. This will have positive impacts on the environment as there will be less travelling to events and less use of resources as detailed above, when delivering projects.

5.4 Resident Impact Assessment

- 5.4.1 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.
- 5.4.2 ICCC provides resources for small community organisations, many of which are volunteer-led and wouldn't meet the criteria for funding under other programmes. It enables some of Islington's poorest 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. Analysis of previous grants demonstrates ICCC's success at meeting the needs of groups with protected characteristics, for example people from black and minority ethnic and refugee backgrounds, young people and older people, women, and people with disabilities.

6 Conclusions

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 The amendment to the Council's current grant agreement with Cripplegate Foundation to transfer full responsibility to ICCC has helped to streamline the decision-making process and reduce delays in notifying VCS organisations of the outcome of their applications. The Council's interest is protected by having the Executive Member for Community Development as Chairperson of the ICCC. The VCS Committee will continue to receive reports to note decisions made by ICCC in respect of awards through the programme. However, the Council has reserved the right to adjust this arrangement if deemed necessary.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Approved Grant Awards for ICCC: Round Three 2019/20

Background papers: none

Final report clearance:

Signed by:



**Cllr Una O'Halloran
Executive Member for Community Development**

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Islington Council Community Chest: Round Three Awards 2019/20

Organisation	Project / Activity	Grant Award (£)
ADVISE AND SUPPORT PEOPLE		
Bridging the Gap	Mentoring for adults at risk of offending and homelessness	£4790.00
IMPROVE PEOPLE'S MENTAL AND / OR PHYSICAL HEALTH		
ASMARA FOOTBALL CLUB	ASMARA FOOTBALL CLUB	£5000.00
Fit Women Group	Women-Only Aerobics and Pilates classes with Healthy Eating Workshops.	£5000.00
Islington Panthers Basketball Club	Islington Panthers Training	£5000.00
Women's Oneness Wellbeing (WOW)	Women Empowerment; Dance, Breathe, Enjoy	£4000.00
The Spitz Charitable Trust	New song writing - expressing creativity of individuals	£3685.00
REDUCE ISOLATION AND INCREASE PEOPLE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY		
Connaught Opera	Demob Delights	£5,000.00
Cubed Collective	Vibast Art Project	£5,000.00
Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers	Provision of services to alleviate isolation	£4,000.00
Islington Faces	LET'S CHAT table	£830.00
Wild Bunch Club	Wild Bunch is 21	£5,000.00
EDUCATE PEOPLE AND IMPROVE THEIR SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY		
Eritrean Youth Club [EYC]	ACRO Dance and Drama	£4,980.00
F.L.A.M.E. Young Theatre Players	Movement 'n' Culture	£5,000.00
Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust	GenXt – an IT training and employability programme	£4,920.00
St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group (SPAG)	SPAG Summer 2020	£4,000.00
YES Outdoors	Breaking the Cycle – Fixing Bikes, Changing Lives	£5000.00

Improve the Environment and make Communities Safer

Blackstock Triangle Gardeners	Blackstock Triangle Gardeners	£2,600.00
Friends of Pooles Park. Pooles Park Primary School	Women-Only Aerobics and Pilates classes with Healthy Eating Workshops.	£3780.00
SFT FOUNDATION TRUST CIC	iExcel Mentoring Project	£5000.00
	Total	£82,585.00