

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 7 July 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held remotely via Zoom on 7 July 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Una O'Halloran, Diarmaid Ward and Richard Watts

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

70 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz.

71 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None.

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None.

73 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

74 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)

Councillor O'Halloran amended the report on submission as follows:

Addendum to the declarations of interest at paragraph 3.12 of the report:

"Cllr Marian Spall is the vice chair of Elthorne Pride which has changed the use of a £500 grant awarded in February 2020 to the creation of a community quilt (a virtual Elthorne Pride Quilt of Hope)
and

Cllr Satnam Gill and Cllr Tricia Clarke are trustees of Hildrop Area Community Association which has changed the use of a £750 grant awarded in February 2020 to the provision of parcels of food, essential items, information and arts and craft resources for local residents."

RESOLVED:

That, subject to the above addendum,

(a) The new proposals and changes to previous proposals submitted by Ward councillors, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, which had been agreed by the Executive Member for Community Development under delegated authority, be noted.

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- (b) The postponements of previously funded projects, detailed in Appendix B of the report, be noted.
- (c) The declarations of interest made by councillors, detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the report and the addendum, be noted.
- (d) The amendments to Ward budgets resulting from funding being returned and detailed in paragraph 3.13 and the final page of Appendix A of the report be noted.
- (e) The temporary revised measures for new and previously funded projects, detailed in the report to the Executive on 30 April 2020, be continued due to social distancing measures still being in place.
- (f) Officers be thanked for their work in the production of the report.

Reasons for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington.

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

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NEW DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF (DRR) AWARDS (Item B2)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to the 12 organisations (17 hereditaments) listed in Appendix 2 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, for three years, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, who have met the criteria set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1 to the report).
- (b) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to 22 organisations (22 hereditaments) listed at appendix 3 of the report, from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2023, who have met the criteria set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1), noting that these organisations were eligible for other reliefs in this financial year 2020/21.
- (c) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to 3 organisations (3 hereditaments) which required inspections to establish business rates values (Appendix 4), subject to the values falling below the thresholds set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1).
- (d) That no payment of discretionary rate relief be made to 2 organisations (4 hereditaments) detailed in Appendix 5 of the report, which were not eligible for DRR, as they did not meet the criteria set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1).
- (e) That officers be thanked for their work on processing the applications.

Reasons for decision

Awarding discretionary rate relief to not-for-profit organisations or other bodies providing a community or social benefit was a cost-effective way of supporting local organisations delivering the commitments set out in the Council's corporate plan.

Other options considered

None

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Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

CHAIR