

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 3 November 2020

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held via Zoom on 3 November 2020 at 6.30 pm.

Present: **Councillors:** Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Una O'Halloran, Diarmaid Ward and Richard Watts

Councillor observers: Janet Burgess MBE and Michelline Safi-Ngongo

Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair

81 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Received from Councillor Anjna Khurana.

82 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None.

83 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None.

84 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

85 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)

RESOLVED:

(a) That the temporary revised measures for new and previously funded projects detailed in the Executive report of 30 April 2020 and paragraph 4.1 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development be approved and that the open programme for applications be continued due to social distancing measures and Covid-19 restrictions still being in place.

(b) That it be noted that the revised measures will be brought to the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee in March 2021 for review.

Reasons for decision

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

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

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NEW DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS (Item B2)

RESOLVED:

That Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded to seven organisations (eight hereditaments) listed at appendix 2 to the report of the Executive Member for Community Development and below, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023.

| Name of Organisation | Address of premises for DRR | Type of Organisation | Relief Awarded | Cost to Council |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| The Bomb Factory Art Foundation | Unit 2, Boothby road entrance, 9-15 Elthorne Road, N194AJ | VCS | £3,251.20 | £975.36 |
| IMECE WOMENS CENTRE | Ground Floor 2 Newington Green Rd. London, N1 4RB | VCS | £1,612.80 | £483.84 |
| IMECE WOMENS CENTRE | Ground Floor 2 Newington Green Rd. London, N1 4RB | VCS | £1,331.20 | £399.36 |
| K&M McLoughlin Decorating Schools LTD | 30 Brewery Road, Islington, N7 9NH | VCS | £30,976.00 | £9,292.80 |
| Refugee Therapy Centre | 1A Leeds Place, London, N4 3RA | VCS | £7,660.80 | £2,298.24 |
| Rhythms of Life | 158-160 Pentonville Road London, N1 9JL | VCS | £1,714.81 | £514.44 |
| Islington Law Centre | 38 Devonia Road, London N1 8JH | VCS | £8,724.80 | £2,617.44 |
| Voluntary Action Islington | 200a Pentonville Road London N1 9JP | VCS | £33,516.00 | £10,054.80 |
| Total | | | £88,787.61 | £26,636.28 |

Reason 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.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

CHAIR