

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 30 September 2014

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held at the Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 30 September 2014 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors: Rakhia Ismail (Chair) and Andy Hull

Observers: Councillors: Mouna Hamitouche and Jean Roger Kaseki

Councillor Rakhia Ismail in the Chair

8 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Apologies were received from Councillor Watts.

9 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

There were no declarations of substitute members.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

There were no declarations of interest.

11 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

12 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND (Item B1)

A revised Appendix A was laid round, which set out full details of the bids received, which would be interleaved with the formal record of the meeting.

RESOLVED:

(a) That the new proposals submitted by Ward Councillors and detailed in revised Appendix A of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be improved in principle, subject to the Assistant Chief Executive (Strategy and Community Partnerships) being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

(b) That a minimum award of £250 per project be approved from 1 October 2014.

(c) That the amendments to Ward budgets resulting from the return of project funding, detailed in revised Appendix A of the report, be approved.

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.

13 **SUPPORT TO LOCAL VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS: DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF (Item B2)**

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the response from the voluntary sector to a recent consultation on the Council's support to local voluntary organisations, as summarised in Appendix B to the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, be noted.
- (b) That a review of discretionary rate relief commence and that recommendations for future funding be submitted to the Committee in January 2015.
- (c) That new awards be approved for three years, from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2018, with an option to extend for up to a further two years.
- (d) That it be noted that applications from organisations which become eligible for discretionary rate relief after these awards have been made will be considered by the Committee twice a year.

Reasons for decision

Awarding discretionary rate relief to charitable and non-profit making bodies was a cost effective way of supporting local organisations and helped to sustain a healthy voluntary sector.

Other options considered

None.

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

The meeting ended at 6.25 pm.

CHAIR