

**Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 20 September 2021**

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held in Committee Room 1, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 20 September 2021 at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** **Councillors:** Kaya Comer-Schwartz, Una O'Halloran, Michelline Safi- Ngongo and Diarmaid Ward

**Councillor observers:** Janet Burgess MBE and Jason Jackson

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

**108 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)**

Received from Councillor Anjna Khurana.

**109 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)**

None.

**110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)**

Councillor Michelline Ngongo declared an interest in agenda item B1 - Local Initiative Fund awards - as the Chair of the Light Project Pro International.

**111 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 July 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

**112 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)**

**RESOLVED:**

(a) That the majority of the temporary revised measures for new and previously funded Local Initiative Fund projects implemented due to the Covid19 pandemic, detailed in the report to the Executive on 30 April 2020, be continued.

(b) To continue with delegated authority to the Corporate Director Fairer Together, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Development, to make changes to the use of previously awarded funding only, with new applications to be considered by the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee.

(c) That Ward budget underspends in 2021/22 exceeding £1,000 per Ward be carried forward to 2022/23.

(d) That the amount that may be approved under delegated authority by the Corporate Director Fairer Together to activity to support Ward Partnership meetings be increased to £1,000.

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(e) That the Local Initiative Fund awards approved by the Corporate Director Fairer Together, under delegated authority and in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Development on 21 June and 16 August 2021, detailed in appendix A to the report, be noted.

### 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

## 113 **DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF AWARDS (Item B2)**

### **RESOLVED:**

That Discretionary Rate Relief be awarded to six organisations (six hereditaments) listed at appendix 1 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development and below, from 1 July 2021 to 31 March 2023:

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	<b>Address of premises for DRR</b>	<b>Type of Organisation</b>	<b>Total Relief Awarded (21/22)</b>	<b>Cost to Council (21/22)</b>
London City YMCA	167 Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JT	VCS	2,940.56	882.17
St Peter and St Paul Roman Catholic Primary School	42 Compton Street, London EC1V 0EU	School	6,673.99	2,002.20
Minority Matters Ltd	Pt Ground Floor & 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor 50-51 Corker Walk, London N7 7RU	VCS	573.44	172.03
Christ The King Roman Catholic Primary School	55 Tollington Park, London N4 3QW	School	10,427.20	3,128.16
Artbox London	Studio 1, Orkney House, 195-199 Caledonian Road, London N1 0AF	VCS	390.10	130.02
St Mary's Church of	Fowler Road, London N1 2EP	School	7,065.60	2,119.56

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England Primary School				
<b>Total</b>			<b>£28,070.89</b>	<b>£8,434.14</b>

### 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 6.34 pm

**CHAIR**