

Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 21 March 2022

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held in Committee Room 1, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on 21 March 2022 at 6.30 pm.

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

Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz in the Chair

126 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)

Received from Councillors Janet Burgess, Jason Jackson, Anjna Khurana and Diarmaid Ward.

127 DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)

None.

128 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)

None.

129 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 January 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

130 LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)

RESOLVED:

(a) That 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, be approved in principle, subject to the Corporate Director of Fairer Together being satisfied that the necessary checks have been made and any other issues resolved.

(b) That the declarations of interest made by Councillors and detailed at paragraph 4.6 of the report be noted.

(c) That the Corporate Director Fairer Together, in consultation with the Executive Member for Community Development, be authorised to make changes to the use of previously awarded funding, with new applications to be considered by the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee.

(d) That the majority of the temporary revised measures for new and previously funded Local Initiative Fund projects implemented due to the Covid-19 pandemic,

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as detailed in the report to the Executive on 30 April 2020, be applied to this last round of 2021/22 awards only.

(e) That pre-Covid measures be applied for Local Initiative Fund awards from the first round of 2022/23 onwards.

(f) That, from May 2022, an additional Ward Partnership Co-ordinator be recruited for the Finsbury Ward Partnership, in recognition of the fact that this Ward Partnership covered 2 Wards.

(g) That the reduction of annual Ward budgets available to community projects from £14,000 per Ward to £13,000 per Ward, as a result of the Ward boundary changes and the reduction of the overall Local Initiative Fund budget from £240,000 to £238,000, be noted.

(h) That the 2021/22 underspend in the Local Initiatives Fund budget be carried forward to 2022/23.

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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VOTE OF THANKS

On behalf of the Committee, the Executive Member for Community Development proposed a vote of thanks to officers for all their work to support the Committee.

RESOLVED:

Accordingly.

The meeting ended at 6.33 pm

CHAIR