

**Fairer Together**

**222 Upper Street, London N1 1XR**

Report of: Executive Member for Homes & Communities

Meeting of: Voluntary & Community Sector Committee

Date: 25 July 2022

Ward(s): All

---

## **Subject: Islington Council's Community Chest - Round Three Grant Awards 2021/22**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1. Small voluntary and community organisations play an important role in Islington, helping to build community resilience and supporting residents who are experiencing poverty and isolation. Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC), one of the borough's most popular grant programmes, has proved to be a very effective way of funding grassroots activity and developing the capacity of local groups.
- 1.2. This report sets out the organisations approved by Islington Council's Community Chest Panel for the third round of funding for 2021/22.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. To note the funding decisions made by Islington Council's Community Chest Panel in relation to the third round of ICCC grant funding for 2021/22, as set out in Appendix 1.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. ICCC is a partnership between Islington Council and Cripplegate Foundation. It is a small grants programme that funds grassroots activity and brings additional capacity building, networking and development support to local voluntary and community organisations. By providing resources for local groups ICCC helps to build community resilience and to tackle poverty and isolation.
- 3.2. ICCC is available to local organisations with a turnover of no more than £100,000 per year – in most cases less than £50,000 per year. Organisations can apply for one grant of up to £5,000 per year. The priority is to support applications from the most deprived areas of the borough with a focus on the following themes:
  - Advice and support
  - Improving community safety
  - Making Islington a more environmentally sustainable place to live
  - Reducing isolation and increasing people's involvement in the community
  - Educating people and improving their skills and employability
  - Improving people's mental and physical health
- 3.3. Community Chest programmes in Islington have been successfully managed by Cripplegate Foundation for many years. Under current grant funding arrangements, agreed by VCS Committee in March 2015, the Council provides funding of £200,000 per year and Cripplegate Foundation adds £50,000 per year (from which £36,000 per year is deducted to cover the costs of administering and developing the programme). In addition, Cripplegate Foundation has committed up to £2,500 a year towards the costs of holding an annual celebration event to promote the achievements and impact of activity supported through ICCC.
- 3.4. Applications to the ICCC are considered by the Islington Council Community Chest Panel, (ICCCP) which meets three times a year. The ICCCP is Chaired by the Executive Member for Homes and Communities and consists of two nominated ward Councillors, representatives from Cripplegate Foundation and representatives from the Voluntary and Community Sector, nominated by the Islington Community Network.
- 3.5. The ICCCP also considers issues of wider relevance to the local voluntary and community sector and reviews priorities annually to ensure that the programme continues to meet the needs of Islington's most vulnerable and isolated residents. In addition, panellists track application trends and identify any gaps in the programme that should be addressed.

- 3.6. In April 2017 VCS Committee decided to transfer full responsibility to ICCCP regarding confirming the awarding of grants to VCS Organisations, rather than being required to decide on recommendations made by the panel. This change has helped to streamline the decision-making process and reduce delays in notifying VCS organisations of the outcome of their applications. The Council's interests are protected by having the Executive Member for Homes and Communities as Chairperson of the ICCCP. The VCS Committee continues to receive reports to note decisions made by ICCCP in respect of awards through the programme. However, the Council has reserved the right to adjust this arrangement if deemed necessary.

## 4. Round Three Grant Awards 2021/22

- 4.1. The third round of ICCP was widely advertised through Voluntary Action Islington's e-news and Cripplegate Foundation's contacts and website. An email was also sent to all previous applicants from the past five years to raise awareness of the deadline and to encourage further applications. All ICCP publicity encourages groups to directly contact Cripplegate Foundation for an informal conversation prior to submitting an application.
- 4.2. Eighteen applications for funding were received in this round, requesting a total of £79,465. One application was ineligible for funding (due to having already applied during the previous 12 months) leaving a total of 17 applications for the Panel to consider. £88,795 was available to allocate (£71,334 from the current round plus £11,456 allocated from last years underspend, plus £1,005 underspend from previous round and £5,000 reallocated from a withdrawn offer).
- 4.3. The Panel reviewed 17 eligible applications and agreed 16 projects for funding (including the deferred applications from FIT Women and Reanella Trust from the previous round) totalling £74,565. Fourteen projects were agreed for funding at the amount requested, while the Panel agreed with the recommendation to fund one project over two years. This means that 82% of considered applications are agreed funding. Four (24%) of applications for consideration are from first-time applicants and four applications agreed funding are from groups that have not previously received funding (including one that has previously applied).

## 5. Implications

### 5.1. Financial Implications

- 5.2. The Council's grant funding of £200,000 per year referred to in this report has been met from existing budgets allocated to ICCP in the Housing General Fund.

5.3. Due to the reduction in the number of applications over the past year an underspend from the 2020/21 budget of £34,369 was carried forward into the current 2021/22 year. This means that an additional £11,456 has been allocated to each of the three rounds this year. As this is the final round for 2021/22 any underspend at the end of this year will be carried over into the first round for 2022/23. The current level of funds available for allocation in the current round is £88,795 (£71,334 from the current round plus £11,456 allocated from last year underspend, plus £1,005 underspend from previous round and £5,000 reallocated as a result of an offer from a previous round being withdrawn due to lack of contact).

5.4. £14,230 underspend from this round will now be carried forward into the new 2022/23 year, and there will be no adverse financial implications borne by the Council as a result of this funding round.

5.5. **Legal Implications**

5.6. The Council has power to provide grants for the voluntary and community sector under the General Power of Competence set out in Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011. The provision of grants for the voluntary and community sector as described in this report is not subject to any other statutory provision. In providing these grants the council must ensure that it complies with its duty to secure best value (Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999).

5.7. **Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030**

5.8. Several of the grants being awarded will fund activities with an environmental impact. These include purchase of materials and food, use of energy and water and travel by event attendees. However, some will have positive impacts that include improving biodiversity. There is also now a theme dedicated to making Islington a more environmentally sustainable place to live which encourages organisations to apply to the fund with projects which will have a positive impact and will build on the ambition to achieve net zero carbon Islington by 2030.

5.9. **Equalities Impact Assessment**

5.9.1. The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant

protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

- 5.9.2. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required in relation to this report which is brought to this committee for information. ICCC provides resources for small community organisations, many of which are volunteer-led and wouldn't meet the criteria for funding under other programmes. It enables some of Islington's poorest residents to access community-based services and activities including through newly established groups who offer the potential for adding to existing provision locally or who can reach communities that may not otherwise be supported. Analysis of previous grants demonstrates ICCC's success at meeting the needs of groups with protected characteristics, for example people from black and minority ethnic and refugee backgrounds, young people and older people, women, and people with disabilities.

## 6. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 6.1.1. ICCC helps to nurture and sustain an innovative and resilient voluntary and community sector in Islington, in particular providing resources for smaller organisations that find it hard to access funding from other programmes. ICCC is an effective way of developing grass roots activity across the borough and building capacity in local organisations to support residents who are experiencing poverty and isolation.

**Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Approved Grant Awards for ICCC: Round Three 2021/22

**Final report clearance:**

Signed by:



Cllr Una O'Halloran

**Executive Member for Homes & Communities**

Date: 15 July 2022

Report Author: Shabana Aslam, Community Investment Lead

Tel: 020 7527 3848

Email: [Shabana.aslam@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Shabana.aslam@islington.gov.uk)

Financial Implications Author: Ellena Smith

Tel: 020 7527 4257

Email: [Ellena.smith@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Ellena.smith@islington.gov.uk)

Legal Implications Author: Sonal Mistry

Tel: 020 7527 3833

Email: [Sonal.Mistry@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Sonal.Mistry@islington.gov.uk)

Environmental Implications: Gearoid Kennedy

Tel: 020 2527 2349

Email: [Gearoid.Kennedy@Islington.gov.uk](mailto:Gearoid.Kennedy@Islington.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1: Approved Grant Awards for ICCC: Round Three 2021/22

Organisation	Project / Activity	Proposed Grant Award (£)
<b>Advise and Support People</b>		
Islington Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Advice Connect Service for BAME women	£5,000.00
MerryGoRound	MerryGoRound	£3,865.00
The Hive Food Bank	The Hive Food Bank	£5,000.00
<b>Educate and improve peoples skills and employment</b>		
Reanella Trust (deferred but subsequently funded)	Resilience Recovery and Relief	£3,700.00
<b>Making Islington a more sustainable place to live</b>		
Friends of Pooles Park (2 year funding agreed)	Naturehood for our Neighbourhood Community Project	£10,000.00
<b>Improve People's Mental and / or Physical Health</b>		
Ball Out Community	Ball Out 3x3 Coaching	£1,700.00
The Dynamic Autism Group	SUMMER CAMP	£5,000.00
Islington Panthers Basketball	Covid return	£5,000.00
CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN	Digging and Walking for Health	£4,900.00
Isledon Wolves	Football Kit	£1,000.00
FIT Women (deferred from previous round)	Pilates, Zumba and healthy eating	£5,000.00
<b>Reduce Isolation and Increase People's Involvement in the Community</b>		

Go Africa CIC	The Go Africa Community Hub	£4,475.00
Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers	The ongoing delivery of our services	£5,000.00
Creative Opportunities	Creative Opportunities Core Costs	£5,000.00
Cally Connects Us	Cally Stories.	£5,000.00
Chorley Community Church	Chorley Sports Club	£4,925.00

**Total**

**74,565.00**