



# AGENDA

## MAYOR AND CABINET (CONTRACTS)

**Date: WEDNESDAY, 12 NOVEMBER 2014 at 5.50 pm**

**Committee Rooms 1 & 2  
Civic Suite  
Lewisham Town Hall  
London SE6 4RU**

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### **MEMBERS**

Sir Steve Bullock	<b>Mayor</b>	(L)
Councillor Alan Smith	<b>Deputy Mayor - Growth &amp; Regeneration</b>	(L)
Councillor Chris Best	<b>Health, Well-Being and Older People</b>	(L)
Councillor Kevin Bonavia	<b>Resources</b>	(L)
Councillor Janet Daby	<b>Community Safety</b>	(L)
Councillor Joe Dromey	<b>Policy and Performance</b>	(L)
Councillor Damien Egan	<b>Housing</b>	(L)
Councillor Paul Maslin	<b>Children &amp; Young People</b>	(L)
Councillor Joan Millbank	<b>Third Sector and Community</b>	(L)
Councillor Rachel Onikosi	<b>Public Realm</b>	(L)

**Members are summoned to attend this meeting**

**Barry Quirk  
Chief Executive  
Lewisham Town Hall  
Catford  
London SE6 4RU  
Date: Thursday, 13 November 2014**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The public are welcome to attend our committee meetings, however occasionally committees may have to consider some business in private. Copies of reports can be made available in additional formats on request.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS – PART 1 AGENDA

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# Agenda Item 1

MAYOR AND CABINET (CONTRACTS)		
<b>Report Title</b>	Minutes	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No.1
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 12 November 2014

## Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of that part of the meeting of the Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) which were open to the press and public, held on 22 October 2014 (copy attached).

# MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET (CONTRACTS)

Wednesday, 22 October 2014 at 7.20 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Chair), Councillors Alan Smith, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Janet Daby, Joe Dromey, Paul Maslin and Rachel Onikosi

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Damien Egan and Councillor Joan Millbank

## 29. Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on October 1 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

## 30. Declaration of interests

There were none.

## 31. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 and under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs [3, 4 and 5] of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

4. Primary Places Contract Award.

## 32. Primary Places Contract award

Having considered a confidential officer report and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, Councillor Paul Maslin, the Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) for the reasons set out in the report:

RESOLVED that:

(i) both projects were tendered to contractors on Constructionline;

(ii) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration on the advice of the Head of Law to approve the award of a contract for works at Holbeach Primary School in a stipulated range of values for the provision of accommodation and internal refurbishment / remodelling, subject to the approval of the current planning application;

(iii) authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration on the advice of the Head of Law to approve the award of a

contract for works at Coopers Lane Primary School in a stipulated range of values for the provision of accommodation and internal refurbishment / remodelling, subject to the approval of the current planning application;

(iv) if the contract exceeds the stated limit a report will be brought to Mayor & Cabinet (Contracts) for further consideration and approval.

The meeting closed at 7.21pm

# Agenda Item 2

MAYOR & CABINET (CONTRACTS)		
Report Title	Declarations of Interests	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 2
Ward	n/a	
Contributors	Chief Executive	
Class	Part 1	Date: November 12 2014

## Declaration of interests

Members are asked to declare any personal interest they have in any item on the agenda.

### 1 Personal interests

There are three types of personal interest referred to in the Council's Member Code of Conduct :-

- (1) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (2) Other registerable interests
- (3) Non-registerable interests

### 2 Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined by regulation as:-

- (a) Employment, trade, profession or vocation of a relevant person\* for profit or gain
- (b) Sponsorship –payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than by the Council) within the 12 months prior to giving notice for inclusion in the register in respect of expenses incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member or towards your election expenses (including payment or financial benefit from a Trade Union).
- (c) Undischarged contracts between a relevant person\* (or a firm in which they are a partner or a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest) and the Council for goods, services or works.
- (d) Beneficial interests in land in the borough.

- (e) Licence to occupy land in the borough for one month or more.
- (f) Corporate tenancies – any tenancy, where to the member’s knowledge, the Council is landlord and the tenant is a firm in which the relevant person\* is a partner, a body corporate in which they are a director, or in the securities of which they have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Beneficial interest in securities of a body where:-
  - (a) that body to the member’s knowledge has a place of business or land in the borough; and
  - (b) either
    - (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that body; or
    - (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person\* has a beneficial interest exceeds 1/100 of the total issued share capital of that class.

\*A relevant person is the member, their spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom they live as spouse or civil partner.

### **(3) Other registerable interests**

The Lewisham Member Code of Conduct requires members also to register the following interests:-

- (a) Membership or position of control or management in a body to which you were appointed or nominated by the Council
- (b) Any body exercising functions of a public nature or directed to charitable purposes , or whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy, including any political party
- (c) Any person from whom you have received a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £25

### **(4) Non registerable interests**

Occasions may arise when a matter under consideration would or would be likely to affect the wellbeing of a member, their family, friend or close associate more than it would affect the wellbeing of those in the local area generally, but which is not required to be registered in the Register of Members’ Interests (for example a matter concerning the closure of a school at which a Member’s child attends).

## **(5) Declaration and Impact of interest on members' participation**

- (a) Where a member has any registerable interest in a matter and they are present at a meeting at which that matter is to be discussed, they must declare the nature of the interest at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered. The declaration will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. If the matter is a disclosable pecuniary interest the member must take no part in consideration of the matter and withdraw from the room before it is considered. They must not seek improperly to influence the decision in any way. **Failure to declare such an interest which has not already been entered in the Register of Members' Interests, or participation where such an interest exists, is liable to prosecution and on conviction carries a fine of up to £5000**
- (b) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest they must still declare the nature of the interest to the meeting at the earliest opportunity and in any event before the matter is considered, but they may stay in the room, participate in consideration of the matter and vote on it unless paragraph (c) below applies.
- (c) Where a member has a registerable interest which falls short of a disclosable pecuniary interest, the member must consider whether a reasonable member of the public in possession of the facts would think that their interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair the member's judgement of the public interest. If so, the member must withdraw and take no part in consideration of the matter nor seek to influence the outcome improperly.
- (d) If a non-registerable interest arises which affects the wellbeing of a member, their, family, friend or close associate more than it would affect those in the local area generally, then the provisions relating to the declarations of interest and withdrawal apply as if it were a registerable interest.
- (e) Decisions relating to declarations of interests are for the member's personal judgement, though in cases of doubt they may wish to seek the advice of the Monitoring Officer.

## **(6) Sensitive information**

There are special provisions relating to sensitive interests. These are interests the disclosure of which would be likely to expose the member to risk of violence or intimidation where the Monitoring Officer has agreed that such interest need not be registered. Members with such an interest are referred to the Code and advised to seek advice from the Monitoring Officer in advance.

## **(7) Exempt categories**



There are exemptions to these provisions allowing members to participate in decisions notwithstanding interests that would otherwise prevent them doing so. These include:-

- (a) Housing – holding a tenancy or lease with the Council unless the matter relates to your particular tenancy or lease; (subject to arrears exception)
- (b) School meals, school transport and travelling expenses; if you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or a school governor unless the matter relates particularly to the school your child attends or of which you are a governor;
- (c) Statutory sick pay; if you are in receipt
- (d) Allowances, payment or indemnity for members
- (e) Ceremonial honours for members
- (f) Setting Council Tax or precept (subject to arrears exception)

# Agenda Item 3

<b>Chief Officer Confirmation of Report Submission</b>			
<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Mayor</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Mayor and Cabinet</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	<b>Executive Director</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Information</b>	<b>Part 1</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Part 2</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
			<b>Key Decision</b>
			<input type="checkbox"/>


<b>Date of Meeting</b>	12 November 2014
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<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Support for the Voluntary Sector</b>
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<b>Originator of Report</b>	Liz Dart	48637
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At the time of submission for the Agenda, I confirm that the report has:

Category	Yes	No
<b>Financial Comments from Exec Director for Resources</b>	✓	
<b>Legal Comments from the Head of Law</b>	✓	
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder Implications</b>	✓	
<b>Environmental Implications</b>	✓	
<b>Equality Implications/Impact Assessment (as appropriate)</b>	✓	
<b>Confirmed Adherence to Budget &amp; Policy Framework</b>	✓	
<b>Risk Assessment Comments (as appropriate)</b>		
<b>Reason for Urgency (as appropriate)</b>		

Signed   
 Executive Member for Third Sector and Community

Signed   
 Executive Director for Community Services

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### Control Record by Committee Support

Action	Date
Listed on Schedule of Business/Forward Plan (if appropriate)	
Draft Report Cleared at Agenda Planning Meeting (not delegated decisions)	
Submitted Report from CO Received by Committee Support	
Scheduled Date for Call-in (if appropriate)	
To be Referred to Full Council	

MAYOR AND CABINET (CONTRACTS)			
<b>Report Title</b>	Support for the Voluntary Sector		
<b>Key Decision</b>	Yes	Item No.	
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Community Services		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date:	12 November 2014

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the criteria and application process for the Council's voluntary and community sector main grants programme 2015/16 to 2017/18.

## 2. Recommendations

Mayor and Cabinet Contracts is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the consultation process and the outcome of that consultation as set out in section 7 and in Appendix B.
- 2.2 Approve the Main Grants Criteria that organisations will be asked to address and be assessed against as set out in Appendix A.
- 2.3 Note the proposed approach to community assets as set out in section 9 and agree for officers to consult on this approach with the voluntary and community sector.
- 2.4 Approve the proposal to extend the current main grants programme until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 subject to performance and agreement on outcomes and outputs. Decisions on grant extensions for individual organisations to be delegated to the Executive Director Community Services.

## 3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham has a long history of working with the third sector and empowering residents and communities. The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the Local Strategic Partnership's commitment to creating a borough that is:

**Empowered and Responsible:** where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.

- 3.2 This is reflected in Lewisham's Corporate Priorities:

**Community Leadership and empowerment:** developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community.

- 3.3 Lewisham is fortunate to have a diverse third sector which ranges from very small organisations with no paid staff through to local branches of national charities. As well as being directly involved in delivering services to citizens in the borough, third sector organisations also provide the essential infrastructure to allow the sector as a whole to develop and support individual citizens to be able to play an active role within their local communities.
- 3.4 Although the third sectors role within the commissioning of local public services has grown, the council recognises that there continues to be a need for grant aid investment for the following reasons:
1. A recognition of the importance of maintaining an independent sector that can act as a critical friend to challenge public sector policy and delivery.
  2. A recognition of the key role that the sector plays in building civic participation, providing a voice for seldom heard residents and providing community intelligence.
  3. A recognition of the great diversity of the sector and the need to engage with small and emerging groups as well as large established organisations.
  4. A recognition of the sector's potential to take risks and innovate which does not sit easily within commissioning frameworks.
  5. A recognition that third sector organisations have been key delivery partners within Lewisham, including for a wide range of targeted short term initiatives. Grant aid provides a level of security for organisations ensuring that there is a strong sector able to address local need, attract additional resources and be ready to work in partnership with us.
  6. A recognition of the sector's ability to utilise resources that are not available to the statutory sector through external funding and volunteers. Every £1 of grant aid invested yields approximately £4 from other sources.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 The current main grants programme was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet Contracts in July 2011. Funding was awarded for two and a half years from October 2011 to the end of March 2014 to 73 organisations. Funding was provided over four themes; Children and Young People, Building Social Capital, Gateway Services and Communities that Care. An extension to the programme for a further year was agreed in December 2013 taking the current funding to 31 March 2015.
- 4.2 In addition to the £5.9 million grants budget, Lewisham Council has contracts to a value of over £20 million with voluntary and community sector organisations to provide a wide range of services. These include youth activities, children's centres, supported housing and public health initiatives. The types of organisations that Lewisham is contracting with ranges from large national charities to small local community based organisations.
- 4.3 In light of the intense pressure on our shared resources it is intended to take a more active collaborative approach with grant funding. The intention is to fund a group of organisations that are committed to working with each other and the council to ensure the best possible outcomes for Lewisham's residents with our shared resources. The intention is to take a dynamic approach to grant aid that allows for flexibility over the period of funding to ensure that funded organisations can work with the Council to respond together to changing needs and priorities, working together to design

services. The main grants programme is designed not just to fund organisations but to enlist active partners who are passionate about Lewisham and have the drive and capacity to make a difference to people's lives.

4.4 In assessing applications to the grants programme, organisation's readiness to work with the Council as active partners and what they can bring to such a partnership will be considered using the following categories:

- Local Intelligence; the level of understanding of local need.
- Transformation; the ability to transform ways of working to better meet needs.
- Collaboration; track record of working in partnership.
- Resources; track record of attracting resources both financial and volunteer time.
- Shared Values; commitment to London Living Wage, Equality, Environmental Sustainability

## **5 Proposed New Funding Programme**

5.1 In establishing the priority themes for the grants programme we have considered:

- The level of current and emerging need locally
- The contribution the third sector can make to meeting the priority
- The availability of other sources of funding locally

5.2 There are four proposed themes and full details of each theme criteria are included in Appendix A.

- Strong and Cohesive Communities – this theme seeks to develop and maintain strong communities and build a more inclusive and cohesive borough. It is divided into two strands, one to support Borough-wide provision and the other to fund a network of neighbourhood community development projects. With the reduction in statutory resources, residents and communities are being asked to do more for themselves. This theme seeks to ensure that there is an infrastructure across the borough that can encourage and capitalise on active citizenship, supporting grass roots activity. The theme will also fund services that provide equalities support to ensure equal access to services.
- Communities that Care – the overall intention of this theme is to fund a range of organisations that together provide support to vulnerable adults to assist them in accessing services, prevent their needs from escalating, reduce the burden on statutory services and provide links between statutory services, VCS and communities in relation to working together to support vulnerable adults. The activities funded through this theme form an important part of the borough's preventative strategy.
- Access to Advice Services – the advice sector provides an essential service to some of the borough's most vulnerable residents. Advice organisations provide independent, high quality advice to individuals to ensure that they receive the benefits they are entitled to, are supported to manage debts, address financial exclusion and deal with housing issues.

Statutory services work closely with the advice sector as addressing these issues are of mutual benefit.

- Widening Access to Arts and Sports – this theme seeks to ensure that the rich and diverse contribution that the borough's Arts and Sports organisations make to the quality of life of residents is maintained. The Arts and Sports sectors are adept at attracting resources from external funding, earned income and volunteers. However, the sectors still require a level of core funding to enable them to continue to attract these resources that would otherwise be lost to the borough. The focus of our support will be on increasing participation particularly by those who are less able to participate due to disability, economic disadvantage and age.

5.3 There are two areas of activity where the Council is undertaking reviews that may impact on the need for continued grant aid. These are the provision of adventure playgrounds, and counselling and psychological therapy services to adults with mental health needs. For this reason it is proposed to remove the funding for Somerville Adventure Playground and The Cassel Centre from the main grants programme but retain it to be reviewed in line with the service area reviews over the course of 2015/16. The impact for these two organisations will be that they will be asked to submit grant applications to continue their existing programmes up to a maximum of their current grant level for 2015/16.

## **6. Consultation Process**

6.1 Following agreement by Mayor and Cabinet to consult on the revised framework for the Main Grants programme, a comprehensive range of consultation events have been undertaken. In line with the Council's Compact with the voluntary and community sector, a three month consultation period was agreed. Consultation took the form of two formal information-sharing meetings with voluntary and community sector organisations. These meetings took place in July and September and were led by the Cabinet Member for the Third Sector and the Executive Director for Community Services. 120 individuals attended the two meetings in total, consisting of voluntary sector organisation senior officers and trustees.

6.2 In addition to the two general meetings, specific themes within the Main Grants programme were discussed with organisations in the following areas:

- the advice sector
- Communities that Care
- transport
- organisations undertaking investment funded projects, focusing on the integration of community-based social care support
- organisations expressing an interest in contributing to the Neighbourhood Community Development Strand
- sports organisations
- arts organisations

- 6.3 In total there were 173 attendees at consultation meetings organised by the Council and a further 60 individuals were involved in the consultation at meetings organised by the VCS and attended by council officers. Officers also met with a number of organisations individually during the consultation. In addition to these discussions, two articles on the consultation were included within Voluntary Action Lewisham's magazine, Grapevine. The consultation was also available on the Council's online consultation portal.
- 6.4 Feedback from the 233 attendees at the consultation meetings and 21 individual written responses are included in Appendix B.
- 6.5 The consultation response was reported to Safer Stronger Select Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> November. The committee expressed concern about the lack of grass roots LGBT activity in Lewisham and requested that the criteria be amended to encourage better engagement with Lewisham residents by strategic equalities organisations. The proposed grants criteria in Appendix A have been amended to reflect this.

## **7. Consultation Outcome**

- 7.1 A summary of the overall outcome of the consultation is provided below. Further details of feedback received are included at Appendix B.
- 7.2 The key elements of the feedback include:
- a general welcoming of Lewisham Council's continued commitment to investing in the voluntary and community sector through grant funding;
  - a welcoming of the opportunity to comment on the proposed revised framework for Main Grants;
  - acknowledgement that the proposed partnership framework provided a means to achieve effective delivery of services to residents;
  - a welcoming of the opportunity to highlight the strengths and achievements of individual organisations and their approach to service delivery.
- 7.3 There were a number of reservations expressed, including:
- A concern about the impact of the proposed £1.5m reduction to the budget on the viability of organisations and services to vulnerable and excluded residents, particularly BME communities.
  - A concern about the time required to build effective partnerships.
  - Concern about there not being a dedicated children and young people theme.
  - Queries about how the Council can use its assets to support the VCS.
- 7.4 A number of comments were made that have led to proposed changes to the criteria including:
- A recognition of the need for a coordination function for equalities work across different protected characteristics.
  - More emphasis on quality and the track record of organisations within the criteria.
  - A recognition of the need for support from borough wide infrastructure organisations around new ways of using and sharing premises.

The amended criteria is included at Appendix A.

- 7.5 Given the level of concern raised about the proposed reduction to the grant aid budget, it is intended to undertake a further 3 weeks consultation to provide additional information to Mayor and Cabinet. The additional consultation will focus specifically on the level of main grants budget. The consultation on the grants criteria is now closed and the proposed amended criteria are attached at Appendix A.

## **8. Main Grants Programme Implementation**

- 8.1 Subject to approval by Mayor and Cabinet it is intended to open to applications on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Application surgeries will be offered and the deadline for applications will be 4 February 2015. Grants will be assessed and draft recommendations provided to organisations by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The draft recommendation will act as notice of a proposed change to the organisation's grant. The Lewisham Compact requires 3 months notice of a change to grant aid and it is therefore intended to extend the current grants for 3 months to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. This will be subject to performance and agreement of appropriate outcomes and outputs for the extended period. It is proposed that decisions on individual grant extensions be delegated to the Executive Director of Community Services.
- 8.2 The officer recommendations for the new grants programme will be brought to Mayor and Cabinet Contracts in April 2015 along with details of any appeals made by organisations. The new grants will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

## **9. Community Assets Support**

- 9.1 The Council provides support for the Voluntary and Community Sector through access to council owned assets. In order to release substantial revenue savings and therefore safeguard frontline service delivery, the Council is in the process of rationalising its public buildings. This work has already commenced with the consolidation of staff working in the Catford complex into Laurence House and the closure of the Town Hall. The Council recognises being able to access property at affordable rates is very important to the continued success of VCS organisations. This needs to be balanced with the need to fully optimise assets and ensure an open and transparent allocation of resources.
- 9.2 There are currently 41 council assets within the community premises portfolio including 23 community centres, 3 sports grounds and 15 buildings housing VCS organisations. In addition there are other properties that are used as community libraries and early years centres as well as a range of other services commissioned from VCS organisations.
- 9.3 It is proposed to adopt a set of four categories that will inform the allocation of space within a reduced number of council assets to VCS organisations in the future.
- 1) Sole occupancy of a building (not at full market rate) – in order for an organisation to have sole occupancy of a building it would need to demonstrate a need for specialist facilities as well as delivering services that meet our priorities.



- 2) VCS hub – shared building with all inclusive affordable rents. This will be the preferred category for organisations that are providing services that meet our priorities. The hubs will mainly provide office and meeting space rather than activity space which would need to be hired elsewhere.
- 3) Community Centre – neighbourhood based facility with activity space that is predominantly geared to providing services at a neighbourhood level. Community Centres currently have a range of different terms and conditions, some are on full repairing leases, some directly provided and others managed by PMOs but with R&M provided by the council. As the number of centres is rationalised we will be working to reduce the overall financial burden to the Council and put in place equitable arrangements across the portfolio.
- 4) Sole occupancy of a building at full market rate – larger VCS organisations that can afford to pay full market rates or who are not delivering services that meet our priorities would still be able to access buildings on the council's standard terms and conditions.

9.4 The Council has also been working to produce an open and transparent guide for voluntary and community sector organisations that wish to enter into lease arrangements with the council. This will ensure that organisations understand what to expect and the full implications of managing an asset.

## 10. Financial Implications

10.1 This report describes the proposed process for agreement of grants to community and voluntary sector organisations in 2015/16. Mayor and Cabinet will be asked to approve 2015-16 grants to community and voluntary sector organisations in April 2015.

10.2 The current recurrent revenue grants budget within the Community Services Directorate is as follows

14-15 Current Revised Budget	4,685,637
14-15 Investment Fund-Budget	800,000
14-15 London Borough Grant Programme Budget	303,763
14-15 Small grant Programme Budget	50,000
14-15 Faith Grant programme Budget	50,000
<b>2014-15 Budget</b>	<b>5,889,400</b>

10.3 If agreed, a saving proposal on the main M&C agenda would reduce this by £1.125m to £4,764,400 and by a further £0.375m in 2016/17. The 2015/16 reduction represents a 9 months saving as the new programme will start from 1/7/2015.

<b>2014-15 Revised budget</b>	5,889,400
15-16 Proposed savings	- 1,125,000
Total 2015-16 Budget	4,764,400
16-17 Proposed savings	- 375,000
Total 2016-17 Budget	4,389,400

10.4 This report also proposes an extension of the current main grants programme until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 subject to performance and agreement on outcomes and outputs. This can be funded from the 2015/16 budget shown in the table in paragraph 10.3. The report proposes that decisions on grant extensions for individual organisations be delegated to the Executive Director for Community Services.

## **11. Legal Implications**

11.1 Under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do unless it is expressly prohibited.

11.2 The giving of grants to voluntary organisations is a discretionary power which must be exercised reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and ignoring irrelevant considerations.

11.3 In relation to any consultation exercise sufficient reasons must be given for any proposal, adequate time must be given for consideration and response and the outcome of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker.

### **Equalities Legislation**

11.4 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

11.5 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

11.6 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

11.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory

code and the technical guidance can be found at:  
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

## **12. Crime and Disorder Implications**

- 12.1 The VCS services that will be funded through the main grants programme will make a positive contribution to building safer communities.

## **13. Equality Implications**

- 13.1 An Equality Analysis Assessment of the proposed changes to the main grants programme has been undertaken. This indicated a potential negative impact in relation to age with the removal of the dedicated Children and Young People strand. In relation to children and young people although there is not a dedicated theme there are opportunities to apply for funding to support work with children and young people across other strands. In relation to youth activity the focus within the main grants programme is on cultural provision through Theme 4 as it is felt that the Youth Service through both its direct and commissioned services provides for generic youth work. The importance of very grass roots responses to youth activity is recognised through the inclusion of youth activity within the Neighbourhood Community Development Strand.
- 13.2 There is the potential for a negative impact across other protected characteristics due to the proposed reduction to the grant aid budget. The exact detail of this will not be known until applications have been received and assessed. A further EAA will be undertaken at that stage to inform the decisions of Mayor and Cabinet Contracts.
- 13.3 All organisations will be asked to demonstrate their commitment to equalities as part of their applications as well as providing information about the proposed impact of their work on different equalities strands.
- 13.4 The Council recognises that within reduced resources and with an increasingly diverse community it will be extremely hard to fund dedicated services for all the different communities within the borough. It will be important for the Council to demonstrate fairness in the allocation of resources not favouring any one specific community. The Council however recognises that many people face disadvantage and have difficulty accessing services and will continue to seek to fund organisations that can work with a range of disadvantaged communities to address this.

## **14. Environmental Implications**

- 14.1 Part of the proposed assessment criteria includes the need for organisations to demonstrate how they are striving to be more environmentally sustainable.

### **Background Documents**

**None**

For further information please contact Liz Dart, Head of Culture and Community Development on 020 9314 8637 or [liz.dart@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:liz.dart@lewisham.gov.uk)



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# London Borough of Lewisham

## **Main grants programme July 2015 to March 2018 criteria and guidance.**

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November 2014

Cultural and Community Development Service  
2nd Floor, Laurence House  
1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU  
[Community.Enterprise@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Community.Enterprise@lewisham.gov.uk)

# Lewisham Grants Programme

## SECTION A – GENERAL CRITERIA

### 1. Purpose

Lewisham is fortunate to have a diverse third sector which ranges from very small organisations with no paid staff through to local branches of national charities. As well as being directly involved in delivering services to citizens in the borough, third sector organisations also provide the essential infrastructure to allow the sector as a whole to develop and support individual citizens to be able to play an active role within their local communities.

Although the third sectors role within the commissioning of local public services has grown, the council recognises that there continues to be a need for grant aid investment for the following reasons:

1. A recognition of the importance of maintaining an independent sector that can act as a critical friend to challenge public sector policy and delivery.
2. A recognition of the key role that the sector plays in building civic participation, providing a voice for seldom heard residents and providing community intelligence.
3. A recognition of the great diversity of the sector and the need to engage with small and emerging groups as well as large established organisations.
4. A recognition of the sector's potential to take risks and innovate which does not sit easily within commissioning frameworks.
5. A recognition that third sector organisations have been key delivery partners within Lewisham, including for a wide range of targeted short term initiatives. Grant aid provides a level of security for organisations ensuring that there is a strong sector able to address local need, attract additional resources and be ready to work in partnership with us.
6. A recognition of the sector's ability to utilise resources that are not available to the statutory sector through external funding and volunteers. Every £1 of grant aid invested yields approximately £4 from other sources

### 2. Funding Collaboration

It is our view that in these times of diminishing resources the need for collaboration is greater than ever. Our intention is to fund a group of organisations that are committed to working with each other and us to ensure the best possible outcomes for Lewisham's residents with our shared resources. We intend to take a dynamic approach to grant aid that allows for flexibility over the period of funding to ensure that we are able to respond together to changing needs and priorities. We are not just looking to fund organisations but to enlist active partners who are as passionate about Lewisham as we are and have the drive and capacity to make a difference to people's lives.

### 3. Partner Profile

In assessing applications to the grants programme we will be looking at organisation's readiness to work with us as active partners and what they can bring to such a partnership. We will be considering:

- Local Intelligence; the level of understanding you have of local need. Who are your users? Do you serve a geographical area or a community of interest? How do you recognise and record need? What do you know about people who may need your services but are not yet users?
- Transformation; your ability to transform the way you work to better meet needs. How have you adapted your working practices over the last 3 years? What opportunities do you see for further transformation?
- Collaboration; your track record of working in partnership. How well connected are you to other organisations delivering similar services? What opportunities do you see for increased partnership work and what benefit could this bring to your users?
- Resources; your track record of attracting resources both financial and volunteer time. What resources does your organisation bring to the borough? What are your plans for resourcing your work over the next 3 years?
- Shared Values (London Living Wage, Equality, Environmental Sustainability); your commitment to London Living Wage, equalities and environmental sustainability. How can you demonstrate your commitment in these areas? What plans do you have to improve on this?
- Quality and Effectiveness; your track record of quality delivery. What evidence do you have of delivering high quality, effective services? How do you measure quality?

#### **4. Programme Themes**

In establishing the priority themes for the grants programme we have considered:

- The level of need locally
- The contribution the third sector can make to meeting the priority
- The availability of other sources of funding locally

The programme themes are:

1. Strong and Cohesive Communities
2. Communities that Care
3. Access to Advice
4. Widening access to Arts and Sports

Details of what we are seeking to fund in each theme are provided below with advice on what you will need to cover in your application.

## **SECTION B – THEME CRITERIA**

### **Theme 1: Strong and Cohesive Communities**

This theme is around developing and maintaining strong communities and building a more inclusive and cohesive borough. The theme is split into two strands:

- a. Borough wide infrastructure and equalities support
- b. Neighbourhood community development and youth work support

#### **1a. Borough Wide**

We wish to fund a group of organisations that will adopt a strong collaborative approach, sharing resources and minimising duplication to achieve the following:

- I. Provide support around the development of policies and procedures to ensure that all communities and individuals have fair and equal access to services.
- II. Identify and work in partnership to address issues that lead to particular communities experiencing difficulties accessing services.
- III. Identify inappropriate over representation of particular communities within services and work with partners to address this.
- IV. Build a more inclusive and cohesive borough, promoting understanding across different communities and reducing marginalisation.
- V. Develop and coordinate networks and collaborations and provide effective representation at appropriate levels for the voluntary and community sector
- VI. Assist existing organisations in building their capacity and capability through advising on best practice and supporting the introduction of effective operational and developmental systems in order to provide a responsive range of high quality services, including promotion of the exchange of skills between the VCS and private sector
- VII. Promote and broker partnerships to maximise access to and cost-effective use of both statutory and non-statutory funding
- VIII. Promote new approaches to using assets, assisting organisations to rethink their premises needs and adapt to new ways of working to optimise the use of scarce resources
- IX. Promote volunteering and provide a brokerage service for community organisations to access volunteers
- X. Provide advice on volunteer recruitment and supervision and advise organisations on effective volunteer management systems.

Within the equalities element of this strand organisations may apply for funding to deliver services around one or more of the protected characteristics. Organisations will need to demonstrate how they will ensure that they are aware of the views, issues and needs of residents from the protected characteristics categories that they are seeking to represent within Lewisham. We expect to fund organisations that will commit to working within a consortium to develop a coordinated approach across the range of protected characteristics. If you wish to include proposals within your application to take the lead in facilitating this consortium, you will need to describe the way in which this work would be carried out.

Organisations funded through the Borough-wide strand will be expected to work closely with the neighbourhood community development projects and take a whole system approach to delivering strong and cohesive communities in Lewisham.

In your application you will need to specify which of the above objectives you intend to address. Describe your intended users and beneficiaries. Outline your programme of activity in Year 1 with milestones, outcomes and outputs. Describe how you will work with the other organisations funded through this strand and what opportunities you see for collaboration over the course of the 3 year programme. Detail the additional resources you will be leveraging in and provide an income and expenditure budget for Year 1.

### **1b. Neighbourhood**

We wish to fund a network of organisations that will work in designated ward(s) alongside the Local Assembly to deliver:

#### **Community Development** (indicative allocation of £24,000 per ward)

- I. Practical support to build strong and cohesive communities
- II. Strengthen local area partnerships by bringing organisations in an area together to work collectively for and with residents in that neighbourhood, a local level infrastructure provider
- III. Coordination and delivery of locally based community activities
- IV. Harnessing skills and volunteer time to develop strong and resilient communities
- V. Facilitating involvement of residents in the issues which affect their lives; and supporting collective action to deliver change
- VI. Identify gaps in youth and community provision in ward
- VII. Deliver activities to meet gaps where possible and raise additional resources through volunteers and fundraising to extend provision

In your application you will need to identify which ward or wards you would like to work in. Please also indicate whether there is a minimum level of funding that you can operate at i.e. if you apply to cover 3 wards could you still deliver a service if your application was only successful for 1 ward. You will need to provide details of how you would work with the local assembly and other ward based organisations to develop and deliver your work programme for Year 1, giving indicative milestones. The assessment will be largely based on the skills and experience you bring as a local partner as the detail of your work programme will need to be developed with residents and other stakeholders.

Organisations funded through the Neighbourhood strand will be expected to work with both the borough wide infrastructure organisations and the Community Development Programme within the four integrated health and social care hubs.



## **Theme 2: Communities that Care**

The overall intention of the Communities that Care theme is to fund a range of organisations that together provide support to vulnerable adults to assist them in accessing services, prevent their needs from escalating, reduce the burden on statutory services and provide links between statutory services, VCS and communities in relation to working together to support vulnerable adults. The theme will also offer support to organisations providing services for families with disabled children and young carers. The theme is split into 5 strands:

- a) connecting and supporting
- b) transport
- c) advocacy
- d) provision for vulnerable adults
- e) support for families with disabled children and young carers

### **2a) Connecting and supporting**

We wish to fund a consortium of organisations that will work together to:

- I. Deliver community development support to organisations working with vulnerable adults across the four integrated health and social care neighbourhoods.
- II. Identify gaps in provision for vulnerable adults at neighbourhood level and work in partnership to address these gaps.
- III. Take referrals from health and social care professionals for vulnerable adults who would benefit from being connected to community activity in their area.
- IV. Deliver a volunteer befriending service for vulnerable adults who are experiencing social isolation.
- V. Deliver a network of timebanks across the four integrated health and social care neighbourhoods.

In your application you will need to specify which of the above objectives you intend to address. Describe your intended users and beneficiaries. Outline your programme of activity in Year 1 with milestones, outcomes and outputs. Describe how you will work with the other organisations funded through this strand and what opportunities you see for collaboration over the course of the 3 year programme. Detail the additional resources you will be leveraging in and provide an income and expenditure budget for Year 1.

### **2b) Transport**

We wish to fund an organisation or consortium of organisations that will deliver an integrated community transport service that complements existing provision such as taxi card, dial a ride etc and incorporating group transport, individual journeys and support to access other mainstream transport in order to reduce social isolation and increase access to services for vulnerable adults. The service will need to work closely with referring agencies to ensure provision is targeted at people for whom there is no other feasible transport option. Services such as travel training should form part of the integrated offer to enable those individuals who need to build confidence in using public transport to be able to access mainstream provision rather than become dependent on a specialist service. The service will need to work with other organisations funded through the Communities that Care theme to encourage

them to consider transport at the early stages of planning activities and inform them of the wide range of transport options available to their users.

In your application you will need to describe your intended users and beneficiaries. Outline your programme of activity in Year 1 with milestones, outcomes and outputs. Describe how you will work with the other organisations funded through this strand and what opportunities you see for collaboration over the course of the 3 year programme. Detail the additional resources you will be leveraging in and provide an income and expenditure budget for Year 1.

### **2c) Advocacy**

We wish to fund an organisation or consortium of organisations to provide advocacy support for people with learning disabilities to ensure that they can:

- Gain access to services improving their quality of life and social well being
- Be better connected and less excluded
- Improve their confidence and be able to assert their rights and views including influencing local policy and practice

In your application you will need to detail how you intend to achieve the above outcomes. How many people you intend to support. How you will use volunteer advocates to further develop the reach of your services. How you will ensure you are well connected with services that PWLD want to access and your approach to building strong partnerships with both statutory and non statutory services in order to deliver positive outcomes for PWLD.

### **2d) Provision for vulnerable adults**

We wish to fund a network of organisations to provide activities for vulnerable adults that reduce isolation and provide an alternative to mainstream day services. We are looking for activities that can accommodate adults with both moderate and substantial needs and your application should demonstrate your approach to charging and how you are able to accommodate individuals with direct payments where appropriate. Organisations funded through this strand would be expected to work collaboratively with each other and us to adapt services to meet changing needs over the period of the grant. This may mean changing the time or location of activities, improving referral processes, accommodating more or different types of users etc.

We are looking to support activities for the following users:

- Older Adults – to combat isolation, increase independence, reduce or delay the need for statutory services and offer an alternative to day centres. Services for older adults should consider how they are able to accommodate adults with dementia and identify what steps they would need to take in order to achieve this.
- Adults with learning disabilities – to extend the range of available day activities, provide access to social activities in a safe environment.
- Mental Health service users – to offer cost effective activity programmes that support mental health service users and reduce their dependence on statutory services.

- Adults with complex social needs – to provide positive activities for adults with complex social needs that support them to build their self-esteem and be actively engaged with their local community.

**2e) Support for families with disabled children and young carers**

We wish to fund organisations who can provide support to families with disabled children and young carers in order to deliver the following outcomes:

- Reduce isolation/social exclusion of parent carers of disabled children and young carers.
- Improve access to services and take up of entitlements by parent carers of disabled children and young carers
- Parent carers of disabled children and young carers are able to influence local policy and service design
- Young carers have improved educational attainment and wellbeing.

In your application you will need to detail which of the above outcomes you intend to achieve and how. How you will ensure that you are working effectively with other CYP services so as to complement rather than duplicate service provision. How you will go about prioritising your resources to ensure that your services reach those with greatest need. What other resources you will lever in to extend the reach of your services.

## **Theme 3. Access to Advice Services**

### **i. Introduction**

The Council is seeking bids from Lewisham-based voluntary sector advice organisations for the provision of Advice and Information Services under the Access to Advice Services theme. This theme promotes the delivery of social welfare advice and information services in the borough which are of a high quality, are flexible to changing need and are responsive to ongoing welfare and legal aid reforms.

In particular, the theme is aimed at organisations which deliver effective advice and information services to vulnerable residents, such as older people, disabled people and newly arrived communities, to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their barriers, access services and are supported to live fulfilled and independent lives.

The Council welcomes bids from organisations working in partnership or as part of a consortium and from those who have experience in utilising digital technology innovatively to support local people to address their own advice needs.

Organisations funded through this strand will be expected to work with each other, the council and other statutory and voluntary organisations to ensure resources are targeted appropriately to meet needs. The Care Act requires the council to provide information and advice to residents about care and support services. New systems and processes for achieving this are currently being designed and the interface between this and the advice services funded through main grants will be important.

### **ii. Overview of requirement**

Services will need to meet the following core objectives:

- The provision of advice services in the borough meets the key borough-wide principles of being fully customer-focused and achieving value for money from the resources available
- Services respond flexibly to the multiple and complex advice needs of people who live, work or study in the borough
- Delivery of services is flexible to ensure increased choice in the way in which clients access services
- Clients are empowered to address their own advice needs through utilising digital technologies
- Services are delivered comprehensively and innovatively across the borough, using outreach as required, so that all geographies and groups are served (see section iii below)

The Council wishes to fund a mixture of generalist, specialist and client specific advice services. Organisations offering basic advice and casework will require or need to be working towards the appropriate Advice Quality Standard (AQS) Advice or Advice & Casework accreditation. Organisations offering more specialist advice, casework and representation will need to employ supervisors and caseworkers who are appropriately qualified and who individually meet the Specialist Quality Mark (SQM) for their area of competence. Where appropriate, organisations may also

require the Lexcel quality mark or be registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Organisations will be required to deliver advice in the following priority areas:

- Welfare rights
- Debt and money advice (including multiple debts and arrears)
- Housing advice (including homelessness, repairs, possession proceedings and tenancy issues)
- Immigration, compliant at OISC Level 1 (Basic Advice);
- Employment advice

In all cases, Assisted Information should be provided to all users to enable active signposting to the appropriate provider.

### **iii. Geographical Coverage and organisational characteristics**

The Council wishes to fund a broad geographical spread of support. However, given their ranking within the 10% most deprived wards in England, services operating within Bellingham, Downham, Evelyn and New Cross wards will be prioritised.

Where a generalist agency is bidding to provide a borough wide service, they will need to demonstrate how they are able to ensure effective delivery of the proposed service across all parts of the borough. Organisations may wish to consider how they can work alongside the four integrated health and social care neighbourhoods to achieve this.

Organisations offering specialist advice services will be expected to demonstrate effective partnership working with other advice agencies to ensure that the specialist service is accessible on a borough-wide basis. Specialist organisations will also be expected to take referrals from other advice agencies, community groups and statutory agencies.

Providers should demonstrate innovative approaches, using outreach and other techniques to show how they will deliver alternative ways of providing access to services for people unable to make use of open door access. Such techniques may include but are not limited to:

- Empowering and encouraging customers to utilise digital technology to address their own needs
- Showing how need for a home visit or vulnerable/referred clients will be assessed, provided for or referred on
- Provision of targeted outreach or other access routes where there is evidence that particular groups or communities are not accessing open door services
- Plans based on comprehensive needs assessment for the provision of outreach in locations where open door access is not provided or easily accessible by public transport.

Organisations will be expected to comply with the following:

- Staff have the relevant skills, knowledge and competency to deliver advice at specialist level
- Appropriate case file records are maintained so there is a clear audit trail of the advice and support given to clients
- The organisation is able to meet the language needs of clients through the use of bi-lingual staff, volunteers or use of translation service

#### iv. Level of work

##### **Generalist social welfare and client specific advice services**

Organisations seeking funding for generalist social welfare and client specific advice services will be expected to comply with the following definition of the level of work to be undertaken:

- General Help – estimated to take an average of 20 minutes and ranging from initial diagnosis of client's problem to general advice (no follow up action required)
- General Help with Casework – estimated to take an average of 60 minutes and ranging from writing a letter/phone call on behalf of clients, form filling and general advocacy.

For client specific advice services, in order to meet the diverse language needs of the various smaller communities and new residents in the borough applicants will also have to show that they are able to provide services to meet the needs of one or all of the following community groups:

- People whose first language is not English
- Older people
- People with disabilities

Organisations providing language based advice services will be expected to demonstrate effective partnership working with other agencies to ensure that the provision is accessible on a borough-wide basis and will also be expected to take referrals from other advice agencies, community groups and statutory agencies.

##### **Specialist Advice Services**

Organisations applying for specialist advice services will be expected to comply with the following definition of the level of work to be undertaken:

- General Help & Support – estimated to take an average of 60 minutes and including activities such as writing a letter/making a phone call on behalf of clients, form filling and general advocacy
- Casework – estimated to take an average of 3 hours – assumes a degree of complexity and ongoing negotiation with third party, preparation of matters up to appeal level
- Representation – advocating on a client's behalf at tribunals, appeals, or court hearings

Applicants will also be required to provide second-tier advice and support to generalist advice providers through providing access to training, information sharing and technical supervision support.

### **Partnership building and support**

Lewisham has a diverse range of advice services offering a variety of support. We want to develop this work further through a consortium based organisation which will provide a range of support services to advice providers. These services will provide consistency across the borough through training and promoting the sharing of best practice to enable individual advice providers to concentrate on the provision of advice in the areas in which their specialism lies.

Applicants bidding to provide partnership building and support strand will need to provide details of the make-up of the consortium and decision-making and communication arrangements.

## **Theme 4. Widening Access to Arts and Sports**

The intention of this theme is to fund organisations or consortiums of organisations that will take a strategic approach to increasing the number of people who participate in the arts and sport in Lewisham. This will particularly involve addressing barriers and providing opportunities for those who are less able to engage. Applications will be expected to demonstrate how they will:

- a. Increase participation, particularly including people who are less able to participate due to disability, economic disadvantage and age (young people and older people).
- b. Nurture talent and provide progression pathways, including developing outreach links into other settings such as schools.

The theme is split into two strands

### **4a Widening Access to Arts**

Lewisham has a rich and diverse arts sector and is recognised as a borough in which creativity can thrive. It is also home to some of the capital's most exciting and innovative organisations. We recognise the huge impact that the arts and creative industries have had on issues such as health and wellbeing, education and the economy but also value the way in which they have helped to make Lewisham the dynamic place that it is. We want to continue to encourage innovation and the ongoing development of an atmosphere in which new things can emerge. Whilst recognising the importance of access to the arts for all ages we also want to ensure that we are building for the future by responding to the current climate in which opportunities for young people to access the arts and develop creative skills in settings other than school is becoming increasingly important.

Through this theme we expect to fund a network of organisations that will deliver activities that:

- Provide opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the arts as active participants and members of an audience.
- Provide opportunities for people of all ages to explore and develop their creativity and acquire new skills.
- Increase awareness and enhance the reputation of Lewisham as a place to spend leisure time.
- Capitalise on funding and other support opportunities from regional and national bodies.

### **4b Widening Access to Sports**

Lewisham has a strong sporting tradition and recognises the vital role that sport and physical activity can play in improving the quality of life of the borough's residents. We want Lewisham to continue to be a place where talent is nurtured and encouraged and where sporting participants fulfil their potential. We also want to make sure that opportunities are available to all of the boroughs residents to regularly participate in sport and physical activity as a means of maintaining and improving their health.



In recent years Lewisham Council has invested significantly in developing high quality sport and leisure facilities and continues to fund Fusion and 1Life to manage these facilities and deliver a programme of associated activities.

To complement these facilities we want to work with a range of voluntary sports clubs and organisations to develop a more coordinated and partnership driven approach to sports provision in the borough in order to make the best possible sporting offer available to the residents of Lewisham. In this context we expect to fund partnerships or single organisations that will take a lead in facilitating partnerships to develop & deliver borough wide, development plans for specific sports. Applications will be expected to show how they will meet the general criteria for this fund (a and b above) and also respond to the following questions:

- Can you demonstrate high levels of demand or growing demand for your sport within Lewisham?
- How will you make the best use of the borough's current and emerging facilities?
- How will you capitalise on funding and/or other support opportunities from regional and national bodies?
- How will you provide activities that encourage people to participate in recreational sport and physical activity?

## **SECTION C – APPLICATION PROCESS**

In order to apply to Lewisham Council Main grants programme you must complete the main grants application form and submit it by 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015

**By email:** [community.enterprise@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:community.enterprise@lewisham.gov.uk)

**By post:** Grants and Information Team, Culture and Community Development Service, Lewisham Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Laurence House, Catford, SE6 4RU

You should read the criteria and guidance contained in the previous sections of this document before completing your application. Additional guidance on each section of the form is contained below.

### **Section A – Contact Details**

This section is to ensure that we have the correct contact details that we can use to correspond with you about your application.

### **Section B – Eligibility**

The questions in this section will enable us to check that you are eligible to apply for funding under this programme.

### **Section C – Partner Profile**

This section will be used to assess how well your organisation meets the partner profile described in section A, paragraph 3 of this document. This is an important part of the assessment and it is essential that you complete this section fully and address all aspects of the criteria.

### **Section D – Your Proposed Programme**

If you wish to apply to more than one theme you will need to complete this section for each theme you are applying for. We ask you to choose a primary theme that is the main theme you wish to be considered under. You can then choose additional themes as appropriate. This section will allow us to assess how well you meet the theme criteria and it is therefore important that you complete it fully.

### **Section E – Budget**

We are looking for a picture of your organisations total income and expenditure budget for 2015/16. However as funding under this programme will not commence until July 2015 we have asked you to separate out your expenditure for April to June 2015. There is no need to provide a breakdown of this it is purely to give the full picture of your turnover.

We have asked you to breakdown your proposed expenditure for each theme you are applying to. Please feel free to add additional lines as required.

There is also a section for you to include any expenditure that doesn't relate to this application but will be part of your organisation's turnover in 2015/16.

**Section F – Your organisation**

If you are currently in receipt of main grant funding from Lewisham Council then you do not need to complete this section. All organisations new to this programme will need to complete this section in full and provide the additional documentation requested.

**Section G – Further Information and Declaration**

It is essential that your application is signed by the chair of your organisations or other member of the management committee with appropriate authority.

**Additional Guidance**

There will be a series of application workshops in December 2015. Details of these are available at

## Appendix B

### LB Lewisham Main Grants Consultation July 2014 - October 2014

Feedback and comments from individual consultation responses and opinions obtained at a range of consultation meetings have been grouped against consultation questions. Full copies of individual organisation's responses are available for councillors to view in the members' room.

#### **Summary of comments received during the consultation and responses**

**Question A – The Council wishes to retain its commitment to grant aid for the voluntary and community sector. Our rationale for this is laid out in the full consultation document (paragraph 8). Do you agree that grant aid is important? Is there anything missing from the rationale?**

#### **Comments**

There was widespread acceptance that grant aid provided a vital component of an effective third sector, including the following points:

Grants cover salaries and, without that, it would not be possible to apply to 99% of charitable trusts;

Flexibility is key. Grants for core costs allow organisations to be flexible;

Grants are important for creative partnerships and enabling collaboration.

The commissioning model is inflexible and leaves organisations without the capacity to apply for extra funding. The 3 year security is important;

We should thank the council for what they have done so far to allow us to bring more money in.

One respondent suggested an addition to the rationale to further highlight the resources that the VCS bring into Lewisham.

A number of respondents mentioned the need for funding to enable the proper recruitment and management of volunteers which in turn provides an additional resource to the borough.

#### **Council Response**

**The overall endorsement of retaining a grant aid programme is noted and the important role grant aid plays in strengthening and resourcing the local third sector and its ability to address community need.**

**The Council recognises that grant aid in the past has provided opportunities for organisations to lever in funding from other sources. It will continue to work with organisations exploring alternative funding sources. The council notes the suggestion of an additional point being added to the rationale to reflect resources brought into the borough by the VCS. The rationale has been updated to reflect this,.**

**Question B - The Council needs to save £95m over the next four years. This equates to approximately 30% of the controllable budget. The Council has been able to protect the Main Grants budget during previous savings rounds but the scale of reductions still to be found means that it is unlikely that the grants budget can continue to be protected. A saving of 25% is proposed. Do you feel that this is fair and proportionate? Please give reasons**

### **Comments**

A wide range of comments regarding the proposed 25% reduction in the Main Grants budget were made. These included comments on the following areas:

There were a number of comments that felt the main grants programme funds organisations that primarily work with the borough's most vulnerable residents and that any reduction to the budget would have a negative impact on these service users.

One respondent queried whether the consultation was genuine and felt that a decision had already been made regarding future grants. This respondent also felt that there was a move to pit third sector organisations against each other. A further respondent expressed concern that the changes were aimed at squeezing out smaller organisations and allowing the private sector to move in to fill the gaps.

There was a further query concerning the purpose of the consultation, in which the point was made that, as well as seeking innovation and new ways of doing things, the Council should also acknowledge a need to continue doing work that was going well.

There was a request that organisations funded by other Council departments be informed of the proposed changes.

Points were made in relation to the need for further collaboration between the Council and third sector organisations to achieve an effective approach to necessary cuts. Ideas included giving the third sector the opportunity to work with decision makers to advocate for an approach which would ensure the quality of provision and Council-run workshops to support organisations through the consultation process and workshops with organisations that have already experienced cuts.

A number of respondents pointed out that with the cuts already made to public services and more that are proposed, more service users are being directed to voluntary sector services. This means that the proposed 25% reduction will have a greater impact on these users.

One respondent queried whether the council had undertaken an assessment of the likely impact on the number of organisations that would cease to operate as a result of the reduction.

Points were made in relation to reducing the grant aid budget would also proportionately reduce the amount of resources the VCS bring into the borough both in cash and in kind.

Questions on whether the Council had truly identified all other areas in which cuts could be made. Respondents confirmed that they had identified some wastage around Council publicity and communication materials.

A view that the cuts were much too deep and would have a negative impact on vulnerable people was expressed, but countered by a further comment that the 25% saving was a

sensible approach and suggestions that organisations could potentially make further savings through sharing back office functions. In general, the consensus was that the third sector was providing a vital service and must be adequately resourced, particularly in a time of austerity, when service user numbers were increasing. It could not be expected to do "more for less".

A number of respondents stated that organisations needed time to adjust to a reduction of 25% in budgets. It was also stated that some organisations are already subsidising other organisations that have suffered cuts to budgets, for example by sharing staff time. It was felt that those organisations would not be able to sustain a cut to their grant aid.

There was a concern about smaller, specialist organisations not being able to survive cuts without an impact on minority groups.

The potential for European Funding was raised as an option, with potential for match from the Big Lottery.

A request was made that the Council should desist from consideration of funding bigger organisations to help fund smaller organisations on the basis that this has not worked in the past.

Another respondent called for more support to be provided to help organisations diversify their funding base and innovate.

A number of specific questions were raised, including:

Do organisations need to build the 25% reduction into proposals?

Is it true that Councillors have previously stated that they would rather "cut whole projects than nibble away at some"?

Can the Council give anything back to the sector in kind, e.g. use of Council buildings at peppercorn rents, and can the Council please provide further information on the "Disposal of Assets " programme?

### **Council Response**

**The Council values and appreciates the quality of the work being undertaken by a range of voluntary and community sector organisations and recognises that there are many examples of good practice within the borough that should be built on through the new grant aid programme.**

**The programme will be open to organisations of any size to apply.**

**The council recognises that main grants may not be suitable for all organisations and has therefore continued its commitment to a small grants programme.**

**The Council is undertaking a comprehensive budget consultation exercise through the Big Budget Challenge. This exercise covers all aspects of the Council's budget and includes discussion on possible savings and revenue generation. The proposed reduction to the grant aid budget is one of many savings proposals being considered by the council in order to meet the £85m savings target.**

**The council recognises the impact that changes to grant aid can have on individual organisations which is why consultation on the change commenced in July 2014 11**

months in advance of the final implementation date of June 2015 when the new grants will commence.

The Council provides support for the Voluntary and Community Sector through access to council owned assets. The council recognises being able to access property at affordable rates is very important to the continued success of VCS organisations. This needs to be balanced with the need to fully optimise assets and ensure an open and transparent allocation of resources. It is proposed to develop clear criteria for the allocation of any subsidised space.

**Question C - If the proposed saving to the grants budget is agreed which of the following approaches to implementing the reduction do you feel would provide the best outcomes for Lewisham's residents?**

- i) Spreading the funding across more organisations with each getting less**
- OR**
- ii) Funding fewer organisations better.**

### **Comments**

The overall response was that if a 25% reduction had to be achieved it would be more effective to fund fewer organisations better. Only one respondent suggested reducing equally across the board.

Many organisations were concerned about the impact a 25% reduction would have on their ability to continue to operate and deliver services. One organisation stated that, with a 25% reduction, it would have to make one of its senior staff redundant. The same organisation stated that it would support initiatives based on funding fewer organisations rather than spreading resources too thinly, and that track record and quality of service should be determining factors in funding award. The organisation further stated that a proposed reduction in grants would have an adverse impact on vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Several points were made about ensuring resources were targeted at those most in need.

It was felt that some organisations particularly larger ones would be better equipped to manage a significant reduction and that thought would need to be given to the impact on each organisation's overall viability.

A number of respondents felt it would be important to take into account an organisation's track record in deciding level of funding.

One respondent felt that there was a risk of penalising organisations that had previously successfully managed their finances and that were therefore more able to deal with the impact of a reduction.

There was a request that a short paper on lessons learnt from the current Grants programme be produced by VAL or the Council.

It was suggested that the third sector should consider partnerships with the private sector and become involved in mixed funding.

One respondent stated that organisations should be rewarded by actual achievements and that there should be scope to increase payments based on results.

Would monitoring arrangements remain the same under the new funding regime and would organisations be required to continue to quantify output and targets as per the current traffic light system?

A number of questions regarding collaboration were raised, as follows:

In a collaboration, who would be responsible for providing monitoring information?

What are the requirements in relation to reserves?

There were a number of points made regarding the need for clarification of the commitment involved in becoming an "active partner".

### **Council Response**

**The Council is acutely aware of the potential impact of the cuts and will work to minimise this where possible. One of the purposes of the partnership approach is to reduce organisations' overheads, thus enabling maximum resources to be focused on service delivery.**

**The Council welcomes suggestions which will enable the voluntary and community sector to access a wider range of funds.**

**The Council believes that its approach to partnership working will enable organisations to maximise their achievements in a targeted way. Payment by results is not appropriate to the grants programme.**

**The Council is reviewing the existing monitoring arrangements and any new system will need to fully reflect the new partnership framework. It will be important to measure the impact that organisations are making alongside the activities they are undertaking.**

**The Council will always seek to identify a lead organisation in any collaboration, and responsibility for providing monitoring reports would sit with this lead organisation.**

**The Council works with organisations to ensure that their reserves are at sufficient levels to meet their legal and other commitments.**

**The council wishes to ensure that it funds financially sustainable organisations and it is therefore not proposed to automatically apply a 25% reduction across the board but to look at each application on its own merits. Organisations' proposals will be assessed on their quality, commitment to core values and value for money using the published criteria.**

<b>Question D - Do you feel the areas covered in the partners profile in Appendix A are the right ones? What's missing? What would you do differently?</b>
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### **Comments**

A number of points were made in relation to the suggestion of increased partnership working. These included:

Some organisations stated that they already worked collaboratively and did not see the need for this new emphasis, with a further view expressed that partnerships were not the



automatic solution and the work required to maintain them often used up scarce time and resources.

There was a view that smaller organisations might be disadvantaged in the search for partners because of a lack of time and resources for partnership working. This was countered by a view that smaller organisations might be encouraged to form appropriate consortia.

Ideas to encourage partnership collaboration were mooted, including organisational "speed dating" and "fair trade" meetings where resources could be bartered, swapped and shared. Some organisations in receipt of Investment Funding stated that their projects had enabled them to work more collaboratively with partner organisations on a range of issues including referrals, sharing resources and project planning. The question was raised as to whether VAL can play a larger role in supporting the sector through the application process so that smaller, under resourced organisations are not disadvantaged by potentially inadequate funding applications.

It was suggested that the timescale for forming partnerships for the new round of funding was tight.

In relation to the partnership profile, one organisation stated that resources should be judged over three years rather than just on the previous financial year.

Organisations raised the point that information about 'Quality', 'Best Practice', 'Track Record', 'Local Sector Intelligence' and 'commitment to the borough' and how these will be judged is missing.

The importance of consistency of staff undertaking monitoring roles was emphasised.

Finally, in relation to premises, a request was made for the Council to provide an overview of organisations and the premises they occupy so that there is transparency about what potential partner organisations have to offer each other in terms of space. A concern was also flagged up about the need to define organisational responsibilities when sharing buildings.

### **Council Response**

**The Council respects the right of independent organisations to choose the way in which they work. However, the Council is committed to a partnership approach to its work which will not be prescriptive but will require organisations to collaborate with others delivering similar services and to plan the services for which they seek Council support in close partnership with the Council. The Council will seek to work in partnership with VAL to assist collaborative working arrangements and other partnership building.**

**The Council respects the fact that timescales are tight. However, it encourages organisations to start the partnership building process as early as possible and it is anticipated that partnerships will continue to be strengthened over the course of the three year funding.**

**A three stage assessment process will be used with an initial officer assessment of how well an application meets the partner profile. These assessments will be quality assured by a manager leading on each of the four themes. The manager as well as ensuring consistency across assessments will prepare recommendations that provide for a spread of resources across the different aspects of their theme. These recommendations will then be taken to a senior officer panel which will provide a**

**challenge function and again check for consistency and quality of assessment. In assessing applications, the sustainability of organisations will be looked at. The application form allows organisations to demonstrate their financial sustainability.**

**The Council accepts that the need for quality and track record was too implicit in the draft criteria and has made some changes to address this.**

**The Council recognises that sharing premises can be a challenging prospect and will be looking to the borough infrastructure strand to provide support to the sector alongside other ways of supporting transformation. The criteria has been updated to reflect this.**

<b>Question E - Do you feel the priority themes are the right ones? What's missing? What would you do differently?</b>
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### **General Comments**

Most comments recognised that the themes covered the important areas of activity. However, some comments were made regarding the absence of children and young people, education, employment and skills and poverty and deprivation.

There was also a view that the reasons behind the identification of a theme and expectations in relation to addressing it should be made clearer. Some organisations expressed a concern that it was currently difficult to establish which theme applied to them and that sometimes themes appeared to overlap. Queries were also raised about potential collaboration difficulties where proposed partners had the potential to apply under different themes.

### **Council Response**

**In establishing the priority themes for the grants programme the council considered:**

- **The level of current and emerging need locally**
- **The contribution the third sector can make to meeting the priority**
- **The availability of other sources of funding locally**

**In relation to employment and skills, the level of funding from the existing main grants programme has been minimal in comparison to other funders. It is felt that this work is better funded through locally held Job Centre Plus budgets.**

**In relation to children and young people although there is not a dedicated theme there are opportunities to apply for funding to support work with children and young people across other strands. However, the grants programme will not fund activity that should be funded through schools budgets. In relation to youth activity the focus within the main grants programme is on cultural provision through Theme 4 as it is felt that the Youth Service through both its direct and commissioned services provides for generic youth work. The importance of very grass roots responses to youth activity is recognised through the inclusion of youth activity within the Neighbourhood Community Development Strand.**

## **Theme 1 - Strong and Cohesive Communities**

### **1a Borough-wide Infrastructure - Comments**

One organisation asked whether Lewisham would prefer a consortium approach (all equalities organisations officially come in under one proposal) or individual proposals with one proposer and a co-ordination function. They stated that they recognise the advantages

of the second option as this would enable the organisation to operate a separate co-ordinating function and it would maintain contractual independence. A number of comments were made in general discussions about how the council and VCS make better use of assets and the role borough-wide infrastructure organisations might play in this.

Discussion took place at the Neighbourhood Community Development Strand consultation event about the need for the borough wide infrastructure organisations to work effectively with the neighbourhoods.

### **Council Response**

**The Council recognises the advantages of a co-ordinated approach to equalities and believes that a co-ordinating role could increase the availability of equalities-based support across the borough. The theme criteria have been amended to reflect this.**

**The Council recognises the need to ensure the best use of premises and the culture change that is required to achieve this. It agrees that there could be a role for an infrastructure organisation in delivering this change and has amended the criteria to reflect this.**

**The Council recognises that the Borough wide organisations will need to work with the neighbourhoods and the criteria has been amended to reflect this.**

### **1b Neighbourhood Community Development - Comments**

A very productive discussion took place at the specific consultation event to discuss this strand. Organisations and individuals attending broadly endorsed the approach. The discussion focussed mainly on how to best deliver the aspirations within the sub-theme building on and working within existing structures such as the Local Assemblies and the Community Connections health neighbourhoods.

There was a call for further clarification of this sub-theme, including definitions of "designated ward" and "neighbourhood", i.e. can it extend into more than one ward?

Comments made included the following:

Neighbourhood plans should include a survey of residents.

Partners should undertake a mapping exercise to avoid duplication of assets.

Objectives could include increasing the number of residents attending Assembly meetings and other events.

Important to ensure support from borough wide organisations particularly around volunteering.

Local Assemblies already provide the basis for this work and will be essential to work closely with them.

Some concern expressed about the level of available funding and the amount of impact you could make with this.

Specific questions included:

Will there be more than one opportunity for neighbourhood funding per ward?

Has the Council considered quadrants as a way forward for neighbourhood funding?

### **Council Response**

**A neighbourhood is defined as a ward. It is possible for organisations to apply under this strand to work across more than one ward.**

**The council welcomes the feedback on how the neighbourhood development strand might work in practice and recognises the need for a variety of approaches to meet local circumstances.**

**The council believes that building on and working with the health neighbourhoods would be productive and has amended the criteria to reflect this.**

**The council recognises the need for borough wide infrastructure organisations to work with the neighbourhoods and amended the criteria to reflect this.**

### **Theme 2 - Communities that Care - Comments**

Overall the Communities that Care theme criteria were well received. Organisations endorsed the need for funding to support the most vulnerable.

Organisations recognise the challenge that Health and Social Care integration brings and are keen to work with statutory partners in delivering integration.

Organisations stressed the importance of funding preventative services to stop users needing to access more expensive statutory provision.

One organisation raised the importance of funding voluntary sector to provide counselling, CBT and psychotherapy that complements statutory and IAPT provision.

Some comments were received about how carers fitted into this strand and the impact that changes through the Care Act would have.

Attention was also drawn to the significant changes that would be taking place as a result of the Children's and Families Act 2014 and the impact this would have on organisations providing support to families with disabled children.

A comment was made about where safeguarding training and support for VCS was included.

Some specific feedback was received on the transport strand

- General agreement that the description around this theme, represents the correct approach.
- Recognition that use of resources should be more focussed and needs to be maximised to increase capacity.
- Services should include:
  - Independent travel training
  - Prioritisation of clients to serve people who cannot access other forms of transport

### **Council Response**

**Funding for carers services is currently provided for through joint commissioning funds. The joint commissioning team will continue to work with providers on how the new requirements under the Care Act will impact on any commissioned services.**

**Provision for work with young carers is made within the Communities that Care Strand as this is currently only funded through main grants. The Council will continue to work with VCS organisations on understanding the impact of the Children's and Families Act 2014.**

**The Council recognises how VCS organisations play an important part in the overall provision of counselling and psychotherapy in the borough. In order to ensure joined up use of resources the current main grants funding to the Cassel Centre will be reviewed alongside the IAPT contract in 2015/16 rather than as part of the main grants programme.**

### **Theme 3 - Access to Advice Services - Comments**

The advice sector stressed the importance of main grant funding to enabling them to continue to provide advice to Lewisham's most vulnerable residents. They made the case that their work brings additional revenues to individual residents but also to the council through ensuring people are claiming the benefits they are entitled to and that the levels of deprivation in the borough are therefore correctly reflected within central government allocations.

The need for both large organisations able to provide the full range of advice services and smaller specialist organisations was stressed.

The sector highlighted the work that they had already done to increase efficiency and collaborate including the £300k Big Lottery funded project led by Advice Lewisham. The point was made that it was not clear in the criteria whether the council wanted to continue to fund the kind of coordinating role that Advice Lewisham had performed.

The CAB expressed concern about the loss of other funding such as the Public Health support for advice work within GP surgeries. They also highlighted the cuts to Legal Aid and the continued changes to the benefits system that were putting additional strain on the advice sector.

The Advice Sector made a combined request via Advice Lewisham that funding reduction within the advice theme be no greater than 10% to reflect the critical nature of their services and the high levels of demand.

There was a request to consider including financial inclusion and digital inclusion within the criteria.

### **Council Response**

**The Council recognises the invaluable work that the advice sector does in supporting the borough's most vulnerable residents and notes the pressure on resources.**

**The Council feels that the new duty within the Care Act to provide access to advice and information will give the opportunity for a more comprehensive joined up approach to providing low level self service advice and information and that the priority for main grants will be for the higher level and specialist advice work.**

**The Council welcomes comments regarding the need for advice organisations to work closely together and believes that work being undertaken by Advice Lewisham can be broadened to facilitate a more consistent offer of services across the borough whilst**

**retaining the specialist function currently undertaken by a range of organisations. The criteria have been amended to reflect the continued need for a coordinating function.**

#### **Theme 4 - Widening Access to Arts and Sports - comments**

Organisations welcomed a specific theme for Arts and Sports.

Organisations sought to emphasise the fact that they work with small numbers of vulnerable young people in an intensive way. They were concerned that their work with relatively lower numbers might disadvantage them should funding focus on high volumes. These organisations also highlighted the need to increase and develop opportunities for engagement.

Clarification was sought on the requirement that schools should meet certain needs through their own resources. The Council was also asked to note that some schools are dropping some Art opportunities out of the curriculum.

Concern that some aspects of the criteria might be hard to measure.

One organisation stated that, given their work with schools, they felt that future funding was being denied to them.

The Council was asked to take account of the Children's Cultural Curriculum that was being developed at the Southbank Centre.

Clarification was sought as to whether it was acceptable to apply for funding where an organisation was extending the curriculum rather than delivering the curriculum?

General enthusiasm that sport has been included in the main grants programme

Lots of discussion about how clubs could collaborate to develop a more strategic approach to increasing access to their sport.

Discussion about the involvement of national governing bodies and how partnerships with them could enhance applications

Discussion about the fact that sports organisations could apply under other themes too – particularly Communities that Care

Concern raised about difficulties for volunteer led organisations in completing section D of the application form for each theme

Question about how much money will be available within this theme

General agreement that the theme description provides a helpful approach

#### **Council Response**

**The Council welcomes feedback from a number of organisations on the benefits of collaboration and their welcoming of this theme as a possible way to address the specific needs of Sports and the Arts.**

<p><b>Question F - We are undertaking an equalities assessment of the proposed changes. Do you feel that the proposed changes would have a negative or positive impact on</b></p>
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**Lewisham residents on the basis of their race, gender, faith/religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender assignment or marital status? Please provide comments on the impact you feel the proposed changes could have, which groups you feel may be affected and any action you feel we could take to mitigate any potentially negative impact.**

### **Comments**

A number of organisations feared that overall the cuts would bring about a negative impact on all Lewisham residents who relied on services delivered by the third sector, in particular BME residents, women and people with disabilities as these groups were often served by the smaller, more specialist organisations who were likely to suffer more from the cuts.

One organisation stated that the needs of ethnic minorities and disadvantaged groups should be safeguarded due to the vulnerability of many groups, including the Council's legal obligation to continue to fund groups that are deemed to be protected under the 2010 equalities legislation.

Two representations were received about the importance of culturally specific services i.e. Refuge Vietnamese Outreach Project and the Indo Chinese Community Association.

### **Council Response**

**All organisations will be asked to demonstrate their commitment to equalities as part of their applications as well as providing information about the proposed impact of their work on different equalities strands.**

**The Council recognises that within reduced resources and with an increasingly diverse community it will be extremely hard to fund dedicated services for all the different communities within the borough. It will be important for the Council to demonstrate fairness in the allocation of resources not favouring any one specific community. The Council however recognises that many people face disadvantage and have difficulty accessing services and will continue to seek to fund organisations that can work with a range of disadvantaged communities to address this.**

**The Council is aware of its obligations under the 2010 equalities act and will be working within this legislation. The Council will undertake an Equalities Analysis Assessment of the grant recommendations.**

### **Additional General Comments**

Additional areas raised during consultation discussions are as follows:

There was a concern raised regarding reliance on volunteers to deliver services where these might replace paid jobs.

Organisations also emphasised that, although volunteering is essentially unpaid work, there is no such thing as a 'free volunteer' as they need to be trained, managed, supervised and some will have expenses paid.

There was further concern regarding the pool of volunteers getting smaller as more and more organisations relied on them. The sharing of a pool of volunteers, like a 'volunteer bank' was mooted.

Concern was expressed that there would be potential gaps for match funding due to not having the results of funding until April '15 as other funders might need to know before that point.

Statistics (used for evidence) can vary, i.e. GLA and national census. Please can the Council look at this and provide guidance.

A request was made to include statutory organisations and commercial providers in future discussions, e.g. health or CCG.

Please can we have further information on how applications will be assessed and please can the Council ensure a transparent scoring system?

**Council Response**

**The range of other comments from various organisations is welcome and the Council notes the points regarding the relative shortness of the timescale but will work with organisations to ensure that strong bids are submitted through organising information events. Workshops on completion of applications and clarification of themes will take place.**



<b>MAYOR &amp; CABINET (CONTRACTS)</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Exclusion of the Press and Public	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: November 12 2014

## Recommendation

It is recommended that in accordance with Regulation 4(2)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012 and under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs [3, 4 and 5] of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

5. Corporate Energy Contracts
6. Education Contract Awards ICT Specialist Service Provider Framework

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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