

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Main grants programme 2014-15	
Contributors	Scrutiny Manager	Item: 5
Class	Part 1 (open)	21 January 2014

The following report was due to be considered at the Committee's meeting on 29 November in advance of the consideration of the main grants programme 2014-15 at Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 4 December 2013. The Chair of the Committee has asked that the report be brought before the committee for consideration on 21 January.

The following is a record of the decisions made by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 4 December 2013:

Decision

Having considered an officer report, and a presentation by the Cabinet Member for Community Services & Older People, Councillor Chris Best, the Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) agreed that

- (i) the extension of main grant funding programme be approved for one further year, for 2014-15;
- (ii) the recommendations to fund voluntary and community sector groups, as set out be approved for the financial year 2014-15, totalling £4,676,509;
- (iii) the recommendations to fund rent grants to four organisations, as set out be approved for financial year 2014-15, totalling £65,450; and
- (iv) an inflationary uplift of 0.8% be applied to the current agreed grant for 13-14 and to include this increase in the proposed grant figures for 14-15.

Meeting papers for Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) are available on the Council's website at:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=199&MId=3037&Ver=4>

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Main grants programme 2014-15	
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Head of Law	Item:
Class	Part 1 (open)	29 November 2013

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline proposals to maintain the main grants programme in its current format for one further year, 2014-15. The report details recommendations Mayor and Cabinet Contracts will be asked to make at their meeting on 4 December 2013 in relation to how main grant funding should be awarded in 2014-15.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Members of the Safer Stronger Select Committee note:

- 2.1 the proposed extension of main grant funding programme for one further year, for 2014-15.
- 2.2 the proposals to fund voluntary and community sector groups, as set out in appendix 1, for financial year 2014-15.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020, 'Shaping our Future', sets out the borough's ambitions to encourage development, enable citizens to live healthy lives and to empower Lewisham's communities to prosper. It has six strategic priorities, including a 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 The *empowered and responsible* strand of the strategy highlights the importance of the community and voluntary sector in all areas of public life. It recognises that the sector plays a significant part in Lewisham's ongoing success.
- 3.3 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".
- 3.4 Lewisham has a strong history of working with the voluntary and community sector and empowering residents and communities. Lewisham is fortunate to have a strong and thriving sector which ranges from very small organisations with no paid staff through to local branches of national charities. The sector includes charities, not for profit companies limited by guarantee, faith organisations, civic amenity societies as well as social enterprises. There are estimated to be around 800 community and voluntary sector organisations in the borough.

- 3.5 What all these organisations have in common is their ability to bring significant additional value to the work that they do through voluntary support and raising funds from sources not available to other sectors such as charitable trusts. In addition they often provide services that the Council cannot easily provide; create links between communities and people; and give people a voice.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Lewisham was the first London Borough to develop a compact with the third sector in 2001. The compact seeks to support a positive relationship between the sector and key statutory partners. It includes expectations around the management of grant aid as well as broader partnership working principles. The compact was further developed in 2010 with the addition of guidelines for commissioning with the third sector in recognition of the important contribution that the third sector should play in identifying needs as well as potentially delivering service solutions.
- 3.8 Although the third sectors role within the commissioning of local public services continues to grow (over £30m worth of services were commissioned from the third sector in 2012/13), the council recognises that there continues to be a need for grant aid investment for the following reasons:
- a recognition of the importance of maintaining an independent sector that can act as a critical friend to challenge public sector policy and delivery.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - a recognition of the sector's potential to take risks and innovate which does not always sit easily within commissioning frameworks.
 - a recognition that third sector organisations have been key delivery partners 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 ready to work in partnership with us.

4. Main grants programme

- 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 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.
- 4.2 In establishing new priorities for the main grants fund in 2011, it was agreed to set aside a proportion of the budget to create an investment fund. This was to support organisations to play a greater role in some areas of public service delivery that are changing rapidly or where the Council is likely to play a less direct service

provider role. The fund enables organisations to test new approaches and innovate in key priority areas as well as supporting organisations through transitions. The Investment Fund has provided one off rather than ongoing revenue funding in three priority areas of Communities that Care, Advice Sector and Employment Projects. A further report will be brought to Mayor and Cabinet in January 2013 outlining plans for the Investment Fund for 2014-15.

- 4.3 Culture and Community Development officers have undertaken the annual monitoring of all main grant funded groups. Particular emphasis has been placed on supporting groups, where relevant, to be more resilient to change and increase their sustainability.
- 4.4 The monitoring followed previous year's monitoring processes. The main model used is the Traffic Light System which scores organisations red, amber or green against four performance indicators – governance, management, development and financial viability. A small number of organisations, namely arts organisations, were monitored using the Rocket Science monitoring tool, which had been piloted in previous years. It is anticipated that the monitoring tools will be reviewed with a unified system being implemented for use in 2014.
- 4.5 Following monitoring, funded organisations were invited to apply for one further year of main grant funding. Lead officers have used evidence from monitoring and the applications form to make recommendations for awarding of grant funding for a further year, 2014-15. The list of recommended awards for the 71 organisations is included at appendix 1. The recommendation report for each organisation is available separately.
- 4.6 A number of organisations applied for growth but growth funding is not being recommended. The investment fund has enabled priority areas to be addressed through working with organisations to develop new approaches to service delivery and collaborate more effectively to manage increasing demand. It is proposed to continue to use the investment fund in this way rather than to provide growth through the main grants programme.
- 4.7 Two organisations that received funding in 2013-14 have decided not to apply for funding in 2014-15, the Gems Youth Project and Lewisham Playbus. The Gems youth project who were in receipt of £1,530 in 2013-14 have ceased operating as at the end of October following the re-organisation of the youth service. The youth service have put in place transitional arrangements for the young people that attended Gems Youth Project and anticipate new services will be in place from April 2014 following the current Youth Service Commissioning.
- 4.8 Lewisham Playbus have also decided not to apply for funding. They received £4,490 in 2013-14 towards the running costs of the playbus.
- 4.9 The main grants programme will be reviewed during 2014, ahead of a new grants programme starting in 2015-16. Full consultation will take place with the sector on this in early summer and at least three months notice will be given of any recommended changes to levels of grant aid. Consideration will be given to co-ordinating commissioning with Youth Service commissioning in order to achieve appropriate synergies.

5. Appeals

- 5.1 As part of the main grants process organisations are given the opportunity to appeal against officers' recommendations. They will be invited to make a submission which will be included in the report to Mayor and Cabinet Contracts on 4 December, and will be given the opportunity to address Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) at that meeting.

6. Rent grants

- 6.1 There is a varied pattern of occupation and management agreements for a number of council owned premises occupied and run by community groups. The council provides support to organisations in a number of different ways, including providing repairs & maintenance, rent grants, main grant funding, peppercorn lease arrangements and so on.
- 6.2 There are currently four organisations receiving rent grants: Ackroyd Community Association, Lewisham Young Women's Resource Centre (LYWRC), The Midi Music Company and Downham Community Association (Wesley Halls). These grants are to cover the cost of rent charged by the Council and are not linked to specific outcomes.
- 6.3 On 4 December, Mayor and Cabinet Contracts will be recommended to agree that rent grants will be paid in 2014-15. It is proposed to review the payment of rent grants as part of the new main grants programme from April 2015 and to link any support for voluntary sector organisations using council premises to outcomes and outputs from this date. Work is also ongoing to develop a sustainable and affordable accommodation strategy for the sector alongside the corporate asset rationalisation programme.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1 Mayor and Cabinet Contracts will be asked on 4 December 2013 to approve 2014-15 grants to community & voluntary sector organisations totalling £4,676,509 (see appendix 1)
- 7.2 The grant payments will be funded from the 2014-15 Community Development revenue budget within the Community Services Directorate as follows:-.

2014-15 Budget – Community Development Grants.

13-14 Current Revised Budget	7,029,356
14-15 Investment Fund-budget adjustment for one of 13-14 funding from Corporate Reserves.	-639,800
14-15 Proposed Savings - ref COM3 It is proposed to reduce the overall grants budget by £0.5m. This saving proposal will not impact on the small grants, faith fund or existing commitments in the main grants programme. The saving will be taken from unallocated funds. Savings have become available through reduction to the required contribution to London Borough Grants Scheme and previously agreed tapered funding-subject to approval by M&C.	-500,000

Total 2014-15 Budget	5,889,556
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2014-15 Proposed Funding Allocation.

Main Grant Programme-see Appendix 1	4,676,509
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Investment Fund - One off funding to VCS organisations to support innovation, service change and interventions for organisations in crisis. Subject to grant allocation.	800,000
London Borough Grant Programme – Currently assumed at 13-14 level	303,763
Small Grants Programme – Subject to grant allocation	50,000
Faith Grants Programme – Subject to grant allocation	50,000
Total 2014-15 Funding Allocation	5,880,272

Current Funding Balance	9,284
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** budget figures exclude staffing, running costs and support service recharges / overheads.

- 7.3 The small funding balance of £9.3k has arisen primarily as a result of three organisations reducing their 14-15 funding applications – Gems Youth Project £1,530, Lewisham Playbus £4,490 and Grove Centre £2,879 - total £8,899. It is proposed that the £9.3k is recycled back into the Investment Fund allocation for 14-15.
- 7.4 The continuation of the rent grants totalling £65,450 to the four organisations outlined in Appendix 2 will make no change to the existing budget position. In effect these grants offset the cost of the rent charged by the Council and have no net impact on the budget. Because of the historic rent grant arrangements with these organisations we do not currently assume any net rent income from these premises in the core budget. The existing arrangements will be reviewed as part of the new main grant programme from April 2015.
- 7.5 The proposed inflationary grant increase of 0.8% will impact both 13-14 and 14-15 financial years. The additional £37k grant funding can be contained within the budget position for the service across both years. This increase has been calculated to mirror the 2013-14 Local Government pay award of 1%. As we no longer grant aid specific posts within grant funded organisations the proposal is to make the inflation award based on an assumption that on average salaries make up 80% of an organisation's expenditure. The service is therefore proposing to award a 1% uplift on 80% of the original agreed main grant award for 2013-14. It is uncertain at this stage whether local government staff will receive any further pay award for 2014-15 so no allowance has been made for this within the grant recommendations. However should a pay award be agreed for 2014-15 at a later date an adjustment to main grant awards may be given further consideration.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The Council's statutory obligations pursuant to the 2010 Equality Act are relevant.
- 8.2 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.
- 8.3 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.

8.4 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.

8.5 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/>

8.6 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
- Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
- Engagement and the equality duty
- Equality objectives and the equality duty
- Equality information and the equality duty

8.7 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

9. Crime & disorder implications

9.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. Some of the recommended main grant organisations deliver services and projects which help to reduce the fear of crime.

10. Equalities implications

- 10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was undertaken on the recommendations of the current main grants programme in June 2011, prior to awards being made.
- 10.2 The overall assessment of that EIA was that the awarding of grants would affect some groups differently. However, no protected characteristic would be affected disproportionately nor constitute unlawful discrimination. The awarding of grants to a wide variety of organisations that work with and support many different elements of Lewisham's diverse communities will help to promote equal opportunities.
- 10.3 The findings of the EIA are still relevant to the recommended awarding of main grant funding in 2014-15 as the recipient organisations remain the same and their user profiles have not significantly changed.

11. Environmental implications

- 11.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

12. Conclusion

- 12.1 The Council recognises the important part the voluntary and community sector play in the lives of our residents and the main grants programmes seeks to support this provision. The continued awarding of main grant funding to 71 organisations in 2014-15 will enable these organisations to continue to deliver much needed services across the borough.

For further information on this report please contact Winston Castello, Community Enterprise Manager on 020 8314 7729.

Appendix 1 – List of organisations recommended for main grant funding for 2014-15

Appendix 2 – List of organisations recommended for rent grants for 2014-15

Full recommendation proposals for all main grant organisations 2014-15 are available separately.

Appendix 1 – List of organisations recommended for main grant funding for 2014-15

Organisation Name	Current Grant Agreed 2013-14	Revised Grant Proposed 2013-14	Grant applied for 2014-15	Proposed Grant Award for 2014-15
2000 Action Community Centre	£20,000	£20,160	£40,000	£20,160
Downham Community Association, Wesley Halls	£20,000	£20,160	£20,000	£20,160
Goldsmiths Community Association	£20,000	£20,160	£25,000	£20,160
Grove Park Community Group	£20,000	£20,160	£20,000	£20,160
Honor Oak Community Association	£20,000	£20,160	£20,000	£20,160
Lewisham Irish Community Centre	£20,000	£20,160	£25,650	£20,160
170 Community Project	£138,958	£140,070	£138,958	£140,070
170 Community Project (formerly awarded to North Downham Training Project)	£65,093	£65,614	£65,093	£65,614
Ackroyd Community Association	£61,072	£61,561	£61,072	£61,561
Age Exchange	£32,500	£32,760	£50,000	£32,760
Age UK Lewisham & Southwark	£106,451	£107,303	£106,451	£107,303
Ageing Well in Lewisham	£30,057	£30,297	£30,057	£30,297
Bellingham Community Project Ltd (BCP)	£49,605	£50,002	£49,605	£50,002
Carers Lewisham	£30,844	£31,091	£32,964	£31,091
Contact a Family Lewisham	£70,952	£71,520	£70,952	£71,520
Crossroad Bexley (previously Crossroads Greenwich & Lewisham Ltd)	£8,333	£8,400	£8,333	£8,400
Deptford Action Group for the Elderly	£40,600	£40,925	£40,600	£40,925
Deptford Methodist Mission – Disabled People's Contact	£7,250	£7,308	£10,000	£7,308
Deptford Reach	£41,624	£41,957	£44,700	£41,957
Entelechy Arts Ltd	£39,511	£39,827	£40,000	£39,827
EqualiTeam	£160,220	£161,502	£160,410	£161,502
Evelyn 190 Centre	£228,649	£230,478	£267,752	£230,478
Forest Hill and Sydenham Voluntary Services Association	£91,620	£92,353	£92,000	£92,353
Forest Hill Youth Project - Platform One	£23,472	£23,660	£26,000	£23,660
Gems Youth Project	£1,530	£1,530	£0	£0
Greenwich & Lewisham Young People's Theatre	£96,631	£97,404	£96,631	£97,404
Groundwork London	£10,000	£10,080	£23,669	£10,080
Grove Centre	£24,766	£24,964	£21,910	£22,085
Heart n Soul	£37,498	£37,798	£37,000	£37,798
Indo-China Refugee Group:Indo-Chinese Self-help Project and Community School	£46,712	£47,086	£48,242	£47,086
IRIE! dance theatre	£56,905	£57,360	£56,905	£57,360
LeeFairShare	£9,200	£9,274	£13,540	£9,274

Lewisham Action on Mediation Project (LAMP)	£27,497	£27,717	£70,000	£27,717
Lewisham Bereavement Counselling Service	£25,500	£25,704	£25,500	£25,704
Lewisham Citizens Advice Service Ltd	£496,951	£500,927	£498,374	£500,927
Lewisham Community Transport	£47,584	£47,965	£71,583	£47,965
Lewisham Disability Coalition	£157,731	£158,993	£201,731	£158,993
Lewisham Education Arts Network	£37,636	£37,937	£37,952	£37,937
Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership (LEMP)	£15,000	£15,120	£15,000	£15,120
Lewisham Mencap	£58,177	£58,642	£70,320	£58,642
Lewisham Multi Lingual Advice Service	£25,000	£25,200	£25,000	£25,200
Lewisham Opportunity Pre-School	£78,004	£78,628	£78,004	£78,628
Lewisham Pensioners Forum	£54,599	£55,036	£72,751	£55,036
Lewisham Playbus	£4,490	£4,490	£0	£0
Lewisham Refugee & Migrant Network	£87,223	£87,921	£87,223	£87,921
Lewisham Shopmobility Scheme	£39,744	£40,062	£39,744	£40,062
Lewisham Speaking Up	£101,580	£102,393	£101,580	£102,393
Lewisham Toy Library	£5,160	£5,201	£5,160	£5,201
Lewisham Young Women's Resource Project	£68,134	£68,679	£68,134	£68,679
Lewisham Youth Theatre	£42,800	£43,142	£42,800	£43,142
MakeBelieve Arts	£15,000	£15,120	£15,000	£15,120
Marsha Phoenix Memorial Trust	£25,000	£25,200	£25,000	£25,200
Millwall Community Scheme	£21,500	£21,672	£21,500	£21,672
Montage Theatre Arts	£5,000	£5,040	£5,000	£5,040
Noah's Ark Children's Venture	£63,957	£64,469	£63,956	£64,469
Pre School Learning Alliance	£100,000	£100,800	£100,000	£100,800
Refuge	£31,621	£31,874	£31,621	£31,874
Samaritans - Lewisham, Greenwich & Southwark branch	£4,284	£4,318	£9,000	£4,318
Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts	£59,890	£60,369	£59,890	£60,369
Seniors (Lewisham Elders Resource Centre)	£45,269	£45,631	£45,300	£45,631
Somerville Adventure Playground	£94,980	£95,740	£112,635	£95,740
The 999 Club	£8,772	£8,842	£8,772	£8,842
The Albany	£280,650	£282,895	£280,650	£282,895
The CASSEL Centre	£127,606	£128,627	£127,900	£128,627
The Metro Centre Ltd	£33,576	£33,845	£33,576	£33,845
The Midi Music Company	£62,200	£62,698	£62,200	£62,698
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance	£120,000	£120,960	£120,000	£120,960

Victim Support	£26,316	£26,527	£26,316	£26,527
Voluntary Action Lewisham	£245,532	£247,496	£245,532	£247,496
Volunteer Centre Lewisham	£107,247	£108,105	£115,392	£108,105
Young Lewisham Project	£90,200	£90,922	£103,900	£90,922
Youth Aid Lewisham	£22,163	£22,340	£23,500	£22,340
Advice Providers Forum	£54,640	£55,077	£54,640	£55,077
	£4,648,266	£4,685,408	£4,946,130	£4,676,509

****Note** - The 13-14 and 14-15 proposed grant figures include a 0.8% inflation uplift – a total of £37k. This has been calculated to mirror the 2013-14 Local Government pay award of 1%. As we no longer grant aid specific posts within grant funded organisations we are proposing making the inflation award based on an assumption that on average salaries make up 80% of an organisation's expenditure. We are proposing awarding a 1% uplift on 80% of the agreed main grant award for 2013-14 and taking this inflationary increase into account in the recommendations for 2014-15 grant funding.

Appendix 2 – List of organisations recommended for rent grants for 2014-15

Organisation Name	Recommended rent grant for 2014-15
Ackroyd Community Association	£13,250
Downham Community Association, Wesley Halls	£29,700
The Midi Music Company	£10,500
Lewisham Young Women's Resource Centre (LYWRC)	£12,000