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MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND CABINET (CONTRACTS)

Wednesday, 30 November 2016 at 2.30 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Chair), Councillors Alan Smith, Councillor Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Damien Egan, Paul Maslin, Joan Millbank and Rachel Onikosi.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Suzannah Clarke, Councillor John Paschoud and Councillor Jacq Paschoud.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Janet Daby and Councillor Joe Dromey.

147. Declaration of Interests

Councillor Smith declared a personal interest in Item 5, the Lewisham Disability Coalition appeal, as a friend of the representative.

148. Main Grant Funding Appeals

The Mayor outlined to Cabinet and officers that each appellant would be granted a 10 minute slot, 3 minutes allocated to the appellant to make their appeal presentation and 7 minutes for Cabinet to ask questions of the appellant. The Cabinet agreed that discussion of all appeals would be held after all appellants had been heard.

The current main grants programme was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet Contracts on 13 May 2015. Funding was provided over four themes:

- Strong and cohesive communities
- Communities and care
- Access to advice services
- Widening access to arts and sports

Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) agreed 2016-17 funding to 60 organisations on 17 February 2016. Funding was awarded for 2 years and 9 months, from July 2015 to March 2018 due to the overall financial position of the Council Mayor and Cabinet have agreed to reduce the funding to the grants programme by £1m from April 2017. This equates to around 25% of the overall mains grant budget.

Five organisations appealed their recommended allocation. Two of these organisations (Lewisham Disability Coalition and Voluntary Services Lewisham) are recommended for a pro-rata reduction. Voluntary Services Lewisham have since withdrawn their appeal.

Following the consideration of all the appeals, the Mayor and Cabinet will make recommendations to the subsequent meeting of Mayor and Cabinet (contracts) on 7 December 2016 regarding any changes to the original allocations.

Grove Park Community Group

Councillor Suzannah Clarke, a local Ward member spoke in support of the Grove Park Community Group. The Community Development Officer from GPCG gave a presentation to the Mayor and Cabinet.

GPCG kept in touch with the local community to find out their needs. There are a lot more activities going on at the centre as an outcome of the last communication regarding the grant. The CDO has been working with all the other services in Grove Park ward although there has been some difficulty in bringing them together. There has been funding support from GPCG to the over 60s club. There is a preschool running in the under 5s Respite Care which was previously closed, which GPCG has also supported financially

The Mayor and Cabinet thanked the appellant for their presentation

IRIE!

The Chair, Artistic Director, Community Allocations Officer, a member of the IRIE board from IRIE! gave a presentation to the Mayor and Cabinet.

Since 2012 IRIE! have been positioning themselves for the future with sustainability at the forefront. The Moonshot centre, which is the IRIE! hub was specifically built for the African-Caribbean Community and is the only remaining purpose built centre for this group in South-East London. IRIE are on track to meet all 2016-17 targets. The organisation is aware of its core business and have robust plans in place for the significant developments in hand and for the future, and have processes in place to quickly re-evaluate processes and themes. There was difficulty with one.

The Mayor and Cabinet thanked the appellant for their presentation.

Mencap

A volunteer at Mencap, gave a presentation to the Mayor and Cabinet.

Mencap run 3 clubs every week. The organisation runs supported holidays, discos, advocacy and some campaigns work. Mencap fund the advocacy of the organisation through their reserves. Lewisham Council is the only funder for the organisation. Mr O'Shea stated Mencap require funding for insurance, payment of workers, safeguarding and supported holiday organisations. Most of the volunteers are over 70- Mencap hope to have more young people involved in the club in the near future.

The Mayor and Cabinet thanked the appellant for their presentation

Lewisham Disability Coalition

Director of the Lewisham Disability Coalition, gave a presentation to the Mayor and Cabinet.

The organisation also achieved its outputs in the area of participating in Advice Lewisham partnerships and the design of three discrete disability projects per annum. For 16/17, the organisation is keen to revise outputs to include targets not only for its advice services but for its representative role as a borough-wide disability campaigning organisation. The charity requested that the Council consider the cumulative impact on LDC due to the main grants cut.

The Mayor and Cabinet thanked the appellant for their presentation

RESOLVED that:

(1) The original recommendation for Grove Park Community Group be upheld

(2) The original recommendation for IRIE! be upheld

(3) Mencap be provided with funding of £30,000

(4) The original recommendation for Lewisham Disability Coalition be upheld with consideration given on rent costs and a possible renegotiation of the operation of the building, without the need to destabilise the organisation.

149. Appendix 5

This item was contained additional information relating to the previous item, the Main Grant Funding Appeals.

The meeting ended at 4.45pm