

MAYOR AND CABINET			
Report Title	Main Grants Programme 2019-22		
Key Decision	Yes	Item No.	
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, Head of Law		
Class	Part 1	Date:	24 April 2019

1. Purpose and summary of the report

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement for the allocation of the Main Grant programme 2019 – 22. The report details the recommended grant allocations that Mayor and Cabinet are asked to agree following the initial assessment of all applications and the appeals process for organisations unhappy with officer recommendations.
- 1.2 Lewisham's main grant programme was last fully let in 2015 following a full public consultation on the revised framework which was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 12 November 2014.
- 1.3 These grants are due to expire at the end of July 2019 and this paper details the process that has been undertaken to re-let the programme through to March 2022.
- 1.4 The paper sets out the process that has been undertaken to re-let the programme and makes recommendations for the allocation of the budget for the new programme.
- 1.5 The recommendations contained within this report take account of an annual budget cut of £600,000 to the programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet agree:

- the proposals to fund voluntary and community sector groups, as set out in Appendix 1, for the period 1 August 2019 – 31 March 2022 unless otherwise stated
- that organisations recommended for funding in excess of £100,000 be subject to more rigorous monitoring and scrutiny requirements, with note of critical indicators, including a review of their current governance arrangements

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham's Corporate Strategy 2018-2022, sets out the borough's ambitions through seven corporate priorities are:
 - Open Lewisham - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
 - Tackling the housing crisis - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.

- Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
- Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
- Delivering & defending: Health, Social Care and Support - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
- Making Lewisham greener - Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
- Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

- 3.2 The strategy recognises 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 and states that 'it is only through strong and effective partnership working that we will deliver better outcomes for our citizens.'
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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. The Compact has been followed throughout the letting of the programme.
- 3.7 Although the third sector's role within the commissioning of local public services continues to grow 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 that the third sector is often better placed to understand local communities and develop innovative assets based programmes that avoid the need for expensive, and sometimes unwelcome, statutory interventions at a later date.

- A recognition that some people may feel more able to access voluntary sector groups due to suspicion, or negative experiences, of statutory services.
- 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 sit easily within commissioning frameworks.
- 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 significant additional resources and be ready to work in partnership with us.

4. Background

- 4.1 Lewisham's Main Grant programme was last fully let in 2015 following a full public consultation on the revised framework which was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 12 November 2014.
- 4.2 The allocations for 2015-2018 were agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 13 May 2015. Funding was provided over four themes:
- strong and cohesive communities
 - communities that care
 - access to advice services
 - widening access to arts and sports
- 4.3 Due to the overall financial position of the Council Mayor and Cabinet agreed to reduce the funding to the grants programme by £1m from 1 April 2017. This equated to around 25% of the overall main grants budget.
- 4.4 Following formal consultation and meetings with all funded groups, officers developed funding recommendations which were agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 7 December 2016, following appeals. A total of 60 grants were recommended for funding, the majority with a flat cut of 15.3% (pro-rata the amount after some groups were defunding and extra funding from elsewhere secured). Four organisations were de-funded. This funding position represents the starting point for the current re-letting process.
- 4.5 In order to inform the criteria and priorities for the full re letting of the programme a three month public consultation was undertaken between 25 July and 25 October 2018 with two public meetings held on 17 September and 17 October.
- 4.6 The outcome of this consultation led to a number of revisions to the criteria for funding and a new application process (detailed below in section 5), along with the extension the current grants through to 31 July 2019 to allow for the application process to be completed and a full three months' notice given to all groups regarding the change of funding arrangements. The criteria, application process and grant extensions were agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 21 November 2018.

5. Funding criteria and application process

- 5.1 The full application form and criteria agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 21 November 2018 are attached as Appendix 2 with an overview provided in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 below.

- 5.2 There was strong support for retaining the 4 themes that had been the basis of the programme in 2015. These are:

Strong and Cohesive Communities – this theme seeks to develop and maintain strong communities and build a more inclusive and cohesive borough. 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 also funds 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 is on increasing participation particularly by those who are less able to participate due to disability, economic disadvantage and age.

- 5.3 Beyond these the consultation provided significant support for the following to be incorporated into the application and assessment process:
- a split between 3 year grants that provide core funding and 2 year grants that fund direct project activity
 - project funding be limited to £35,000 to target towards smaller groups (although smaller groups are also encouraged to consider core funding which has no overall limit)
 - organisations and projects in areas with relatively little provision be given priority within the assessment process
 - track record, efficiency and effectiveness to form a key part of the assessment criteria overall the assessment process
 - core funding bids to be assessed and monitored at an organisational level with project funding assessed against specific activity
 - demographic targeting supported with applications relating to addressing inequalities. Disability, age and race were highlighted as particular areas of concern in the consultation but the council should welcome applications across all protected characteristics
 - networking and partnership building support across the sector included as a requirement for all groups applying for core funding

- specialist legal, financial and governance support be the focus of the infrastructure offer
- a bespoke approach to Advice services based on the work of the Advice Lewisham partnership with the clear expectation that this work continues to strive to improve access for all groups
- increased focus and weighting towards funding collaboration and the partner profile within the assessment process (these will be considered alongside assessments of track record of delivery, efficiency and effectiveness outlined above)
- areas of provision excluded from the criteria in 2015, as they were commissioned or delivered elsewhere, remain so with this be made explicit as part of the application process¹.

- 5.3 The application process was launched on 3rd December 2018 with a deadline for applications of midnight on Sunday 3rd February 2019.
- 5.4 The re-letting of the programme is taking place with an annual budget cut of £600,000.

6. Overall response rate and assessment process

- 6.1 As with previous application rounds there was huge interest in the Main Grants programme with requests for funding that significantly exceeded the available budget. 92 applications were received requesting annual funds of £5,869,223 against an available budget of £2,562,102 - a subscription rate of 229% i.e. for every £1 available £2.29 was requested.
- 6.2 In this context officers worked to ensure that funding recommendations were made for those submissions which most closely met the criteria as outlined above, were detailed and comprehensive in their responses and contributed to a strategic spread of services for Lewisham. However, it remains a fact that many projects are not recommended for funding or for much less than they applied for.
- 6.3 In assessing each application officers applied a 0-5 scoring criteria across a number of questions, with 0 representing an absent answer and 5 covering all expected areas with significant innovation and added value. Detailed assessment guidance that was issued to officers is attached as Appendix 3.
- 6.4 These scores were then moderated before being passed to a second round of assessment that considered the quality of applications in a range of different groups including service type, geographical spread and equalities implications.
- 6.5 All applicants were considered together to ensure that the overall programme provided the most appropriate coverage of needs across the borough given the quality and scope of applications and the available budget. Finally, groups were given the opportunity to appeal to Mayor and Cabinet against their draft allocation with the outcome of these appeals forming part of the final recommendations outlined in this report.

¹ The overall theme criteria were agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 12 November 2014 with the subsequent grants being let at Mayor and Cabinet on 13 May 2015. It was agreed that employment and skills provision was to be provided through locally held Job Centre Plus budgets and related regional commissioning activity. The focus for youth activity within the main grants programme was confirmed as cultural provision as the Youth Service through both its direct and commissioned services provides for generic youth work.

- 6.6 Taken together this overall assessment process led officers to recommend 44 groups for funding, with two recommended for transition funding (see Section 12) with the remaining 46 not recommended. This is a significant reduction on the current programme which provides funding to 60 groups and is in response to the feedback from the consultation which supported funding fewer organisations to a higher level (just over 62% of respondents) over spreading funding across more organisations with each getting less (just over 36%).
- 6.7 The recommendations also reflect the consultation feedback that funding should be targeted at efficient, effective and well run organisations that are able to demonstrate the ability to attract other funding to the borough. Typical consultation responses included phrases such as "those funded should display excellence, accountability and best value for money" and "some organisations are wholly dependent on Lewisham funding and yet fail to prove efficacy and reach."
- 6.8 Overall this means that 10 currently funded groups are not recommended for funding with a further two receiving only transition funding. The remaining reduction in the number of groups recommended is accounted for by a consortium bid by the Advice Lewisham partnership under the Access to Advice theme and 2 of the currently funded groups not applying for funding due to a change in their priorities or the nature of their relationship with the council.
- 6.9 This reduction in the number of funded groups, and the on-going quality of the majority of the current grant recipients, meant that it was difficult for new groups without a strong track record in the borough to respond strongly enough to be recommended for funding. Notwithstanding this 4 groups who have not previous received a Main Grant are recommended for funding.
- 6.10 Despite this rigorous, robust and targeted assessment process the groups recommended for funded are, in the majority of cases, still receiving significantly less than they applied for. Officers were minded of the level of possible scaling that organisations identified within their applications and attempted to stick to these levels wherever possible but the overall budgetary constraints meant that this was not always possible.
- 6.11 In recognition that a bespoke response to individual applications was not always possible officers also sought to draw parallels between applications providing a similar type and scale of service and apply a flat rate of grant for transparency and equity. This type of flat rate was applied to the neighbourhood community development groups (£25,000), the borough-wide equalities co-ordination services (£35,000) and a number of the organisations involved in sports coordination and promotion (£25,000).
- 6.12 Overall the approach was designed to ensure a varied and equitable spread of services best able to meet the theme criteria set out as part of the application process. In order to ensure equity of access borough-wide services (Age UK, Advice Lewisham etc) tended to be given slight priority over local delivery and community development services that enable communities to work together to make best use of existing assets were given priority over direct provision that is particularly reliant on on-going council funding.
- 6.13 These approaches, along with the Equalities Assurance Assessment (EAA) – attached as Appendix 4 – that was undertaken in tandem with the application assessments sought to deliver a pattern of provision delivering Best Value for the council overall and minimises the negative equalities impact of the cut to the budget. However, it is important to acknowledge that it was impossible to wholly mitigate the impact of a £600,000 (19%) reduction in funding.

- 6.14 Sections 7 -10 below details both the groups recommended for funding and those who have not been successful as well as a brief overview of the rationale for these decisions. The full assessment reports for each application are available on request.

7. Strong and Cohesive Communities

- 7.1 This theme is designed to fund services that develop and maintaining strong communities and building a more inclusive and cohesive borough through the provision of VCS infrastructure and equalities support. In order to achieve this, the recommendation is to fund organisations that provide both strategic, borough wide support and local community development support.

- 7.2 Organisations recommended for funding under this theme:

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Recommendation	Ward/Area
Community Development/Infrastructure Support				
Lewisham Local (RGTB)	£182,000	£76,266	£212,000	Borough-wide
Bellingham Community Project	£34,000	£27,032	£25,000	Bellingham
Goldsmiths Community Association	£33,500	£20,338	£25,000	Whitefoot
Lee Green Lives	£36,000	£15,600	£25,000	Lee Green
Somerville	£51,621	£20,338	£25,000	Telegraph Hill/New Cross
The 2000 Community Action Centre	£100,000	£0	£25,000	Evelyn
St Luke's Downham (Front Room)	£21,192	£0	£12,715	Downham
Equalities				
Lewisham Pensioners Forum	£68,235	£33,896	£35,000	Older People
LRMN	£190,134	£74,503	£35,000 ²	Refugees/migrants
Lewisham refugee welcome	£48,300	£0	£20,000	Refugees
Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust	£53,000	£34,586	£35,000	BAME
Metro	£34,951	£28,247	£35,000	LGBT/Overall co-ordination
TBC	£0	£0	£35,000	Disabilities
LEAN	£37,000	£32,201	£35,000	Young People (WATAS)

NB – current funding levels are included for background information and are not material in the recommendations within this report.

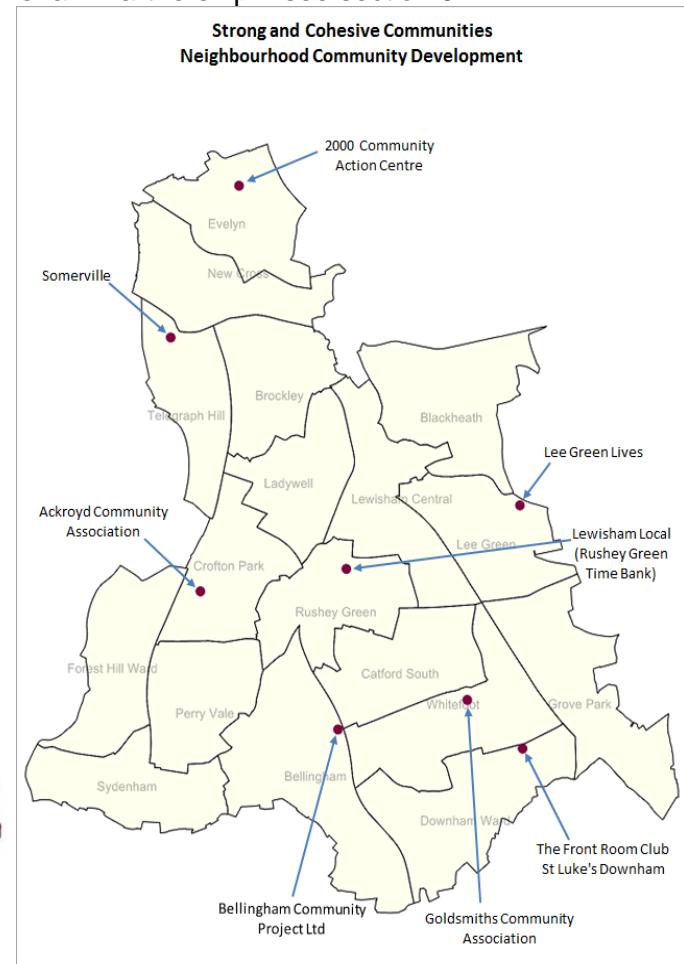
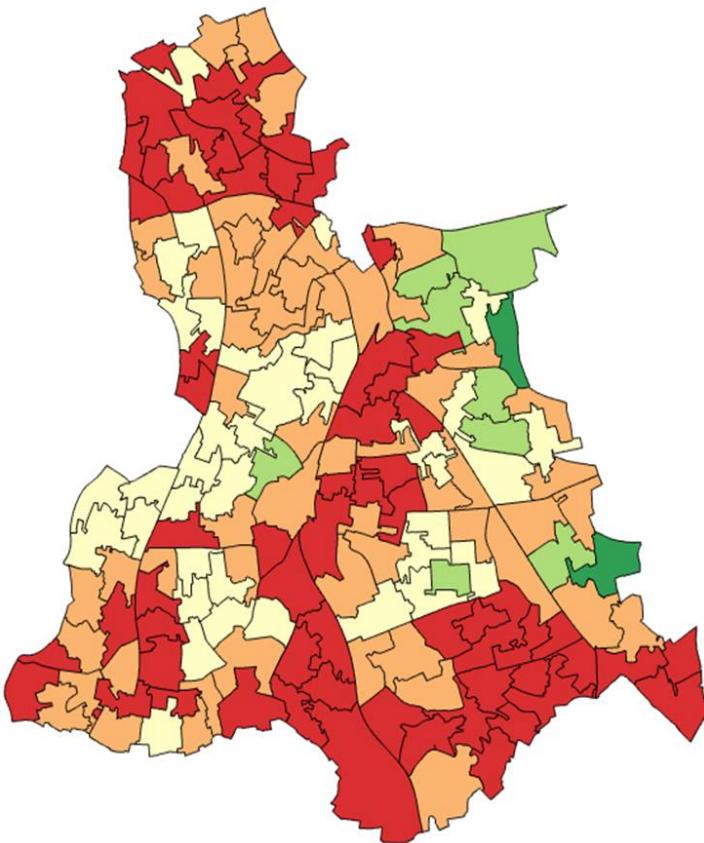
- 7.3 Rushey Green Timebank is recommended for funding as the strategic voluntary and community sector support organisation delivering support to organisations and encouraging greater collaboration across the sector; working with individuals to increase volunteering and the giving and exchanging of time and skills; engaging with business in promoting giving to local communities and causes.
- 7.4 The approach, put forward under the banner of Lewisham Local, builds on existing good work undertaken through this initiative and is favoured due to its positive a radical approach to capacity building. Strong bids were also received from Voluntary Action Lewisham and Community Waves but overall the Lewisham Local bid was felt to be the most innovative and forward looking. One area that was lacking in the bid however was specialist support for organisations in crisis so officers are recommending a further £30,000 to allow for this work to be included within the service offer.

² LRMN will receive a minimum of £71,000 including Advice Lewisham funding

- 7.5 A network of organisations, all funded at a level of £35,000 p.a. to take a lead in identifying and addressing barriers to engagement of communities that do not traditionally access services or have a disproportionate representation within particular services. Organisations recommended for funding are:
- Metro Centre to provide a strategic equalities lead as well as working with LGBT communities
 - Stephen Lawrence Centre to work with black and minority ethnic communities
 - Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network to work with refugee and migrant communities³
 - Lewisham Pensioners Forum to work with older people
 - Lewisham Education Arts Network (LEAN) to work with young people (in recognition that the focus of services for young people within the programme is access to cultural activities)
- 7.6 In attempting to recommend a comprehensive network of organisations to coordinate activity across a number of the protected characteristics assessed through the Equalities Analysis Assessment officers were mindful that no applications were received in this area from Disability Groups. This was identified as a potential gap in the new programme representing a disproportionate impact on disabled people, partially due to the closure of the Lewisham Disability Coalition at the end of 2018. As such officers have recommended that a commensurate allocation of £35,000 be held back pending the establishment of the Accessibility Commission, which will be led by disabled people that is committed to in the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-22. It is hoped that the Commission will identify both priorities and delivery partners for whom this funding will be appropriate. As this funding is unlikely to be allocated until April 2020 the appeals meeting held on 27th March has recommended that it is used for short term support for Lewisham Community Transport Scheme – see paragraphs 8.5 - 8.8 and Section 12.
- 7.7 Neighbourhood Community Development organisations mainly focussed around the borough's most deprived wards each receiving £25,000 p.a. These organisation will work with individuals, groups and the local assembly to coordinate responses to local issues. Organisations recommended for funding are:
- 2000 Community Action Centre (Evelyn)
 - Bellingham Community Project (Bellingham)
 - Goldsmiths Community Association (Whitefoot)
 - Lee Green Lives (Lee Green)
 - Somerville Youth and Play Provision (Telegraph Hill/New Cross)
 - The Front Room Club (Downham) – funded at a lower level due to the nature of the project
 - Ackroyd Community Association also received community development funding as part of their overall allocation under Communities that Care but this was at a lower level recognising the overall pattern of their delivery and associated economies of scale.
- 7.8 As can be seen below these service correlate reasonably well with the most deprived areas of the borough (the dark red areas in the map on the left represent areas amongst the 20% most deprived in the country using the Index of Multiple Deprivation) providing an excellent network of support for local individuals and groups who wish to mobilise local assets to address emerging needs. The main outlier in this network is Lee Green Lives which is not located in an area of significant deprivation. However,

³ Lewisham Refugee Welcome are also recommended for project funding under this theme and the expectation is that they work in partnership with LRMN and other services to provide a comprehensive service offer. However, as Refugee Welcome provide volunteer led direct support rather than coordination and oversight services this funding is recommended at a lower level.

in recommending funding for this group officers have recognised the paucity of other services in this area and that Lee Green Lives has also been highlighted as a site for outreach provision by the Advice Lewisham Partnership – see section 9.



- 7.9 Of those not recommended for funding under this theme four (Urban Synergy, Young Lewisham Project, BelEve UK and For Jimmy) were applying to deliver services for young people although not linked to the Widening Access to Arts and Sports theme. The application guidance clearly states: *[in 2014] the focus for youth activity within the main grants programme was confirmed as cultural provision as the Youth Service through both its direct and commissioned services provides for generic youth work. Despite the changes in the funding landscape since 2014 our recent consultation confirmed that the current themes remain the correct ones so these [employment and training being the other] areas remain excluded from the programme.*
- 7.10 However, officers have passed the application form to commissioners with the Children and Young People (CYP) department that the current (and future) services offers are considered as part of the 'Early Help' review due to be undertaken during 2019.
- 7.11 The application from New Cross and Deptford Families First has also been passed to CYP Commissioners as the services proposed, while to an extent working with parents as well as children, again sits as part of the wider review being undertaken during the course of the coming year.
- 7.12 Voluntary Action Lewisham and Community Waves presented alternatives to the Lewisham Local offer as outlined at paragraph 7.3.

- 7.13 The Ubele Initiative put forward a positive application but it was considered too similar to that put forward by the Stephen Lawrence Centre to be recommended. The bids by WE Women and Forest Hill Community Library (along with that by Eco Communities under Communities that Care) all related to aspects of the day to day running of library buildings which was not specifically included as part of the funding criteria.
- 7.14 Noah's Ark Children's Venture put forward a strong application. However, the overall assessment was that it did not respond clearly enough to the Main Grants themes and a range of other applications provided a stronger response and given the continued pressures on the Council's budget and the subsequent reduction of the grants budget, priority needs to be given to those applications.
- 7.15 Pepys Community Forum put forward a number of different initiatives but the main provision related to the provision of advice services but these were not linked to the Advice Lewisham Partnership as was specifically required under the application process – see section 9. Finally Lewisham Plus Credit Union failed to make a compelling case regarding the impact that Main Grant funding would have in improving their offer to Lewisham's most vulnerable residents.
- 7.16 As such the organisations not recommended for funding under this theme are:

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Ward/Area
The Ubele Initiative	£22,000	£0	BAME
Urban Synergy	£35,000	£0	YP
Voluntary Action Lewisham	£200,000	£210,000	Borough-wide
WE Women	£35,000	£0	Evelyn
Young Lewisham Project	£40,000	£0	YP
BelEve UK	£30,000	£0	YP
Community Waves	£179,670	£0	Borough-wide
For Jimmy	£65,000	£0	YP
Forest Hill Community Library	£15,000	£0	Forest Hill
Lewisham Plus Credit Union	£75,000	£0	Borough-wide
New Cross and Deptford Families First	£25,000	£0	New Cross/Evelyn
Noah's Ark Children's Venture	£36,000	£36,156	Borough-wide
Pepys Community Forum	£77,493	£0	Evelyn

NB – current funding levels are included for background information and are not material in the recommendations within this report.

- 7.17 Voluntary Action Lewisham and Noah's Ark Children's Venture appealed against these recommendations but the special meeting of Mayor and Cabinet held on 27th March 2019 to consider their submissions did not recommend any change to these proposals – see Section 12

8. Communities that Care

- 8.1 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, the VCS and communities to work together to support vulnerable adults. In the previous application round this area considered of 5 sub themes but these were removed this time to allow for applications that cut across traditional delivery boundaries.

- 8.2 There were a significant number of extremely strong applications from existing grant recipients under this theme but also a number from organisations who have not adequately responded to the clear message given by the council that there was a need to diversify income streams and attempt to move away from over-reliance on local authority funding. A number of these organisations are not recommended for funding in line with the consultation informed policy approach highlighted at paragraph 6.7 above.
- 8.3 Of the organisations recommended for funding listed below the majority fall into the former category although the recommendation to fund Stanstead Lodge Seniors Club comes with a requirement to engage with support to develop its governance and delivery model as this remains weak – see paragraph 8.8 for further details.

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Recommendation
Ackroyd Community Association	£45,320	£41,523	£38,000
Age Exchange	£33,000	£27,541	£24,750
Age UK Lewisham and Southwark Ltd	£110,346	£417,350	£428,455. ⁵ ⁴
Contact	£65,382	£60,606	£49,100
Deptford Methodist Mission Disabled People Contact	£30,000	£6,144	£15,000
Entelechy Arts (also WATAS)	£33,800	£33,896	£33,800
Heart N Soul (also WATAS)	£58,472	£58,472	£53,600
Lewisham Mencap	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000
Lewisham Speaking up	£73,441	£73,441	£66,100
Stanstead Lodge Seniors Club Ltd	£50,000	£38,669	£30,000
Sydenham Garden	£45,500	£33,147	£36,400
The Albany (also WATAS)	£268,020	£267,290	£195,000
Voluntary Services Lewisham	£220,000	£161,474	£144,000
Wheels for Wellbeing	£34,941	£28,925	£29,350

NB – current funding levels are included for background information and are not material in the recommendations within this report.

- 8.4 The recommendation for Age UK Lewisham and Southwark will be funded via resources made available through the Better Care Fund/Improved Better Care Fund which is jointly managed by the Council and Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group. This is an extension of the current arrangements which provides £250,000 to the Main Grants budget for 2018/19 and recognises the importance of the Community Connections and SAIL services to the prevention of costs in health and adult social care services and their keystone role in the developing Social prescribing model in the borough.
- 8.5 Ageing Well in Lewisham, Lewisham Community Transport Scheme and the Grove Centre were originally not recommended for funding as they broadly fell into the category of organisation who have not effectively developed their governance and financial model as set out in paragraph 8.2 above.
- 8.6 These organisations are heavily reliant on local authority funding which is essentially directly funding the provision delivered with little extra resource secured on the back of the council's support. As such officers did not initially recommended on-going funding for these groups but suggested officer support to allow them to seek partnerships with more established organisations who can assist in taking forward aspects of the delivery for which there is an on-going need.

⁴ Additional funding made available via the Better Care Fund/Improved Better Care Fund

- 8.7 However, following the appeals process, as set out in Section 12 of this report, these recommendations were revised. All three organisations highlighted their intention to raise significant funds from alternative sources and were worthy of ongoing support to assist with their move to self-sufficiency albeit just for the remaining 8 months of 2019/20 in the case of LCTS and for 2019/20 and 2020/21 for the Grove Centre – see below table.
- 8.8 These recommendations also address issues highlighted in the Equalities Assurance Assessment (which was completed ahead of the appeals meeting to help inform the process), that both the Grove Centre and Ageing Well are in areas with large populations of older people and defunding them may have a disproportionate impact on those groups. This is also one of the reasons for the recommendation to fund Stanstead Lodge Seniors Club who, despite a relatively weak application, have begun to develop their funding model in recent times. However, the below funding is also recommended as part of this report following the appeals process and this should ensure that the south of the borough continues to be well serviced by provision for older people.
- 8.9 It is recognised that the level of funding to these services is reducing but officers have considered the move of the Age UK services to Bellingham, the on-going support for Community Development support in Whitefoot and Downham and the continued support for Entelechy Arts who are developing their 'Meet me' model in the south of the Borough as potential mitigation. However, officers will continue to work with Lewisham Pensioners Forum and the Positive Aging Council to monitor the impact of these recommendations during the life of the programme.

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Recommendation
Ageing well in Lewisham - LCC	£28,945	£25,637	£4,000
Lewisham community transport scheme	£75,000	£40,675	£35,000*
The Grove Centre	£13,482	£16,524	£7,500#

* For 2019/20 only (pro-rata)

For 2019/20 (pro rata), £3,750 for 2020/21, £0 for 2021/22.

- 8.10 The organisations not recommended for funding under this theme are listed in the table below:

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Recommendation
Action for refugees in Lewisham	£83,500	£0	£0
Asian elders and carers group	£6,800	£0	£0
Bromley Lewisham and Greenwich MIND Ltd	£34,570	£29,579	£0
ECO Communities CIC	£70,000	£33,896	£0
Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum	£18,000	£0	£0
Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum	£10,800	£0	£0
MOSAC	£40,000	£0	£0
Parent support group (South East)	£7,500	£4,271	£0
Quo Vadis Trust	£66,120	£0	£0
REAP Community	£33,005	£0	£0
Rural Urban synthesis society (RUSS)	£35,000	£0	£0
South London Counselling	£150,000	£0	£0
T4H Therapy 4 Healing	£126,312	£0	£0
Thames Reach charity	£34,944	£16,948	£0
The Bike Project	£24,734	£0	£0

WE matter UK	£35,000	£0	£0
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NB – current funding levels are included for background information and are not material in the recommendations within this report.

- 8.11 A number of organisations (Mind, Thames Reach, MOSAC and Lewisham Parent and Care's Forum) were not recommended as their service offer fall more directly in line with commissioning structures across the council. As with the services detailed at paragraphs 7.7 – 7.9 those suggested by MOSAC will be considered by CYP commissioners as part of the 'Early Help' review and Mental Health and homelessness commissioners have been advised of the nature of the bids from Mind and Thames Reach respectively.
- 8.12 Action for Refugees in Lewisham submitted an interesting application but large parts of it were ineligible for consideration as it significantly exceeded the word limit and overall the established services provided by Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network supplemented by the newly funded Lewisham Refugees Welcome were assessed as providing preferred support in this area.
- 8.13 The application from the Asian Elders and Carers Group, REAP Community and WE Matter were reflective of the small scale of the organisations and failed to adequately address the theme criteria. The submission from the Parent Support Group was stronger but still felt short of describing the depth of provision required and officers have recommended alternative possible funding sources to the group.
- 8.14 South London Counselling and Therapy 4 Healing both made interesting bids that were strong elements. However, there were significant gaps relating to the details of operational delivery in both applications and the level of funding requested would have recognised a huge increase in turnover for the groups so officers have assessed that these applications represent too a great a risk for funding at this time.
- 8.15 Rural Urban Synthesis Society (RUSS) submitted an application that clearly detailed an innovative programme of work and a very good track record of fundraising. However, the proposed programme it does not directly fit the Main Grants criteria and therefore is not recommended for funding. A mental health recovery Café proposed by Quo Vadis Trust was also considered an interesting proposal but insufficient detail was provided to give officers the confidence that the delivery model was sustainable and, again, this is not recommended for funding.
- 8.16 Finally, in line with other bids outlined at paragraph 7.12, the application for funding by Eco Communities to assist with the running costs for community libraries is not recommended for funding as this was not an area highlighted as a priority in the application criteria. Given that funding is not currently available for this purpose officers felt that the impact of not recommending this funding was overstated in Eco's application form and will meet with representatives of the organisation as a key delivery partner to ensure that existing services are sustainable. Eco Communities appealed against this recommendation but it was upheld by Mayor and Cabinet at their meeting on 27th March 2019 – see section 12.
- 8.17 Taken together, while some very difficult decisions had to be made given the funding constraints, it is felt that the recommendations under the Communities that Care theme continue to represent positive coverage across the borough supported by significant borough-wide coordination resource through Community Connections and SAIL.

9. Access to Advice

- 9.1 The application criteria under this theme were significantly more prescriptive due to programme of work that has been underway since the letting of the current Main Grants agreements.
- 9.2 In May 2015, the agreements were set by Mayor and Cabinet on the condition that the advice agencies be subject to a formal review of their provision as there was some concern that the pattern of provision was inequitable and presented barriers to access.
- 9.3 The subsequent review indeed found there the model at the time had a number of flaws including:
- the fixed geographical nature of the services which meant that certain areas of the borough were woefully underserved
 - the lack of coordination of the service offer which meant that all providers could be operating at the same time with other times completely uncovered which again presented barriers to access for those not available during those periods
 - the lack of coordination meant that there was no joint work and sharing of resources which could lead to queues out of the door at one service while another was relatively quiet
 - a lack of any triage based on need and a first come first served service that had to be queued for on the day meant those unwilling or unable to present early or stand for long periods missed out on service regardless of the seriousness of their needs
 - no coherent data collection was undertaken to give an indication of what needs were being seen at different services and at what scale – this presented a major barrier to the effective development of services
 - this lack of data also meant that the skill mix of staff required was almost impossible to determine
 - there was a lack of clear information available to the public about what was available, and where, and the majority of people who accessed services did so due to the proximity of the service to their home
- 9.4 In December 2015, the review recommended:
- single Advice Lewisham Freephone telephone number for residents to call to access advice or information or to make an appointment to see a caseworker in one of the advice agencies if the issue could not be resolved over the phone
 - A single Advice Lewisham website
 - drop-in advice and information at a limited number of main venues across the borough so that residents can, in an emergency, see someone face to face and be triaged appropriately. The continued availability of drop-ins meets the needs of those residents who are unlikely to use the internet or the phone but restricting the locations may mean that we are making maximum use of resources
 - Freeing up resources to provide more generalist and specialist casework for more complex needs
- 9.5 On the basis of these recommendations work to effectively integrate the service officer to ensure a seamless and truly borough-wide pattern of services has been ongoing. During the consultation there was strong support for funding to protect the advice infrastructure developed through the work of the Advice Lewisham partnership with 54% of respondents in overall support with only 16% opposed. The overall results were: Strongly Support 16%, Support 38%, Neither support or oppose 21%, Oppose 14%, Strongly Oppose 2% and Not Answered 9%.
- 9.6 As such the application criteria made it clear that all bids under this theme should seek to maintain the key element of the existing partnership including:
- freephone advice line as the principal point of access to the service
 - telephone-based triage of calls by assessors

- provision for face to face appointments for individuals whose first language is not English
- centralised appointment booking system, intended to book people into appointments with a specialist adviser most relevant to their need
- home visits for advice appointments especially for the elderly or disabled
- drop-in service
- referral service from professionals, including social workers and GPs
- limited case work provision for more complex cases requiring representation and/or appeals
- referral arrangements for individuals requiring debt and money advice

- 9.7 In addition applications were required to detail how they would continue to develop the current service model to ensure it continues to meet the needs of the most vulnerable while continuing to develop closer links to meet current service challenges. This would include addressing the following challenges:
- how to better coordinate the extensive range of community organisations involved in providing support to local residents
 - how to better link services with those offered by statutory providers, including the developing service offering a single point of access to care and health
 - how to further develop the service with other voluntary sector provision which provides advice and support to vulnerable residents
- 9.8 During the application process officers held a specific application workshop with the specialist advice agencies at which it was made clear that applications could be made collectively or individually but that it was important that they addressed the key issue of service coordination and the effective prioritisation of need.
- 9.9 In the event just 2 applications were received under this theme, one from the Advice Lewisham Partnership of 170 Community Project, Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, Lewisham Multi-lingual Advice Services and Citizens' Advice Lewisham who also acted as the lead agency and one from the Evelyn 190 Community Trust.
- 9.10 The Advice Lewisham application was very strong and addressed the key aspects of the theme requirements. It included proposals to further develop the service and increase capacity, working with up to 30,000 residents per year. The partnership also outlines significant information on mobilising community and financial assets.
- 9.11 The application included an outline strategy for making links with a range of statutory provision, particularly services relating to housing advice and working with vulnerable residents. Key in this is a proposal to develop referral arrangements with the borough's Housing Options Service in order to further increase capacity and to work towards reducing the number of individuals becoming homeless. The partnership's work to develop a law centre will further boost employment law support and provide high quality and qualified advice. The application also highlighted a specific agreement with Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network who will supply specialist immigration advice to the partnership under a direct funding arrangement with the partnership.
- 9.12 The service provided details of the locations of the different aspects of the service provision (see below map) which included a reasonable spread of locations notwithstanding the need to develop a presence in the south west of the borough.



Figure 1: Face-to-Face Advice Locations

- 9.13 Overall, this was considered a very positive application and is recommended for funding. It is proposed that officers work with the organisation to develop a mobilisation plan which will develop outreach facilities in areas of the borough, based on resident needs. The plan should also include arrangements for developing more formal referral arrangements with relevant statutory organisations and will specifically include an approach for addressing the needs of people with disabilities given the recent closure of Lewisham Disability Coalition.
- 9.14 The application from the Evelyn 190 Community Trust was less strong and outlined a specialist housing and employment advice service working with up to 1000 people per year. While there were several references to supporting the Advice Lewisham Partnership there was very little detail about how this would be done in practice or how this might link with the organisation's own needs assessments or triaging mechanisms.
- 9.15 It was also clear from the Advice Lewisham Partnership bid that no formal arrangement had been reached regarding this partnership (as was referenced in relation to LRMN) and the scale of the two bids suggested that this work would be

additional to that of the partnership which was not considered an appropriate recommendation given the scale of the funding reductions.

- 9.16 Furthermore, as with the services highlighted at paragraph 8.6 and 8.7 the financial position of the Evelyn 190 Community trust gives cause for concern, with only limited levels of reserves and an over-dependence on Main Grants funding over several years.
- 9.17 Overall the application does not demonstrate that it has sought additional strategic partnership links which would help support vulnerable people across the borough in a holistic manner and is not recommended for direct funding.
- 9.18 However, funding for Advice services are being maintained at a significant level via the Advice Lewisham Partnership and the partnership may wish to engage the organisation to deliver some specialist element of the overall service offer. Regardless of the outcome of conversation between Evelyn 190 and the Advice Lewisham Partnership it is clear that the organisation needs to undertake an urgent review of their current finances to ensure that they are solvent in the short-term. Officers will work with the staff and trustees at Evelyn 190 to ensure that the impact of this funding recommendation on current service users are kept to a minimum.
- 9.19 Evelyn 190 appealed against this decision but this was unsuccessful. Full details of the appeal process are detailed at Section 12.
- 9.19 The funding recommendations for this themes are set out below:

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Recommendation
Recommended			
Citizens Advice Lewisham	£995,000	£468,720	£866,732
Not Recommended			
Evelyn 190 Community Trust	£175,000	£175,129	£0

NB – current funding levels are included for background information and are not material in the recommendations within this report.

10. Widening Access to Arts and Sports

- 10.1 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 were 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.
- 10.2 The theme is split into two strands:

Widening Access to Arts

Through this theme the expectation is 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.

Widening Access to Sports

Officers recommend that the Council works 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?

- 11.3 Within the **Arts** strand there were a large number of excellent submissions that strongly addressed the criteria.
- 11.4 Overall officers felt that this was the theme that was most directly oversubscribed in terms of quality bids that could have been recommended for funding without such tight budget constraints.
- 11.5 As such the assessments tended to favour organisations with a strong track record of delivery in the borough and no new applicants are recommended for funding under this element of the theme. Several organisations are recommended for significantly less funding they applied for and three are recommended for defunding. Teatro Vivo are not currently funded under this theme but have historically provided a borough wide community development and engagement support under the Strong and Cohesive Communities Strand. While this provision has been excellently received and is well used by the Local Assemblies team amongst others it was not considered the highest priority for this theme during the final assessment round.
- 11.6 Both Montage Theatre Arts and Sydenham Arts are unfortunate not to be recommended for funding. Montage is well run and delivers excellent activities in the borough. However, Lewisham benefits from a wealth of organisations providing similar activities and it is not possible for the Council to support all of them financially. Sydenham Arts were seeking to address their sustainability through their bid but the exceptionally strong competition within the arts theme means that it is not possible to recommend this application for funding.
- 11.7 As with the 2015 there is a reasonably good geographical spread of organisations and activities, although the north of the borough is over represented. This is slightly corrected by the fact that GLYPT will be based at the Fellowship Inn in Bellingham during the life of this funding.

11.8 Across the **Sports** strand there were again a range of very strong bids and there was a desire to slightly rebalance the funding within the overall theme to correct historic (relative) underfunding of this area. This has allowed a very positive application for Cricket development from Platform Cricket which will provide new provision for the borough. Other than this there is on-going funding recommended for all other existing sports group

11.9 Those groups recommended for funding under the Widening Access to Arts and Sports theme are:

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Recommendation
Deptford X	£20,000	£8,474	£8,500
Greenwich and Lewisham Young People's Theatre (GLYPT)	£70,000	£68,530	£35,000
IRIE Dance Theatre	£39,999	£21,105	£21,105
Lewisham Education Arts Network	£37,000	£32,201	£35,000 ⁵
Lewisham Youth Theatre Ltd	£43,000	£36,559	£35,000
Second wave centre for youth arts	£46,142	£45,017	£35,000
The Midi Music Company	£45,000	£44,092	£38,200
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	£88,400	£76,831	£60,000
London Sports Ltd	£17,700	£15,000	£15,000
London Thunder Basketball	£35,000	£21,185	£25,000
Millwall Community Trust	£34,775	£21,185	£25,000
Saxon Crown Swimming Club	£15,500	£6,667	£7,750
South East London Tennis	£59,837	£25,140	£25,000
THYSF - Platform Cricket	£33,600	£0	£25,000

NB – current funding levels are included for background information and are not material in the recommendations within this report.

11.10 As previously noted the vast majority of the organisations not recommended for funding under both aspects of this theme scored highly on their assessments and would be considered worthy of funding had the budget constraints not been so tight. As highlighted at paragraph 11.5 above the main reason for the final recommendations related to the desire to protect established provision rather than direct concerns regarding the new applicants.

11.11 GLYPT, Sydenham Arts and Montage Theatre Arts all appealed the initial recommendation. Mayor and Cabinet re-iterated the initial officer recommendation reports that found that all of these applications were of high quality and worthy of funding had the overall budget position allowed it. However, the only additional funding that is recommended following these appeals is £1,000 per annum for Montage Theatre Arts who stated that they would appreciate a small sum in order to demonstrate the council's endorsement of their programme to other audiences – detailed in the below table.

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Recommendation
Montage Theatre arts	£13,500	£8,474	£1,000

⁵ This is the same allocation referenced in Section 7 – LEAN will receive £35,000 in total

11.12 The organisations not recommended for funding under this theme are:

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Final Allocation
BOW Arts	£29,992	£0	£0
Hartslane	£39,000	£0	£0
Horniman museum and garden	£27,516	£0	£0
Magpie Dance	£7,040	£0	£0
Max media arts CIC	£11,800	£0	£0
Penny Dreadful productions	£35,000	£0	£0
Sounds Like Chaos	£57,583	£0	£0
South East London Arts Network	£25,000		£0
South London Art Map	£6,000	£0	£0
South London Art Map	£12,000	£0	£0
Sydenham Arts	£34,353	£8,474	£0
Teatro Vivo	£31,200	£29,377	£0
The Maypole project	£19,620	£0	£0
The Royal society for blind children	£29,969	£0	£0
THYSF - Platform cricket (Core application)	£66,667	£0	£0

NB – current funding levels are included for background information and are not material in the recommendations within this report.

11. Core and Project funding

- 11.1 One of the innovations of this round of the programme was the council's commitment to providing core funding to support key partners to realise their ambitions in the borough as well as project funding for specific activities.
- 11.2 This meant that funding was made available for 'back office' functions such as administration, fundraising, central management and office costs that others funders are reluctant to finance. This was intended to allow other funding bids to concentrate on project delivery offering better value for money and increasing the success rates of bids and therefore the overall income for the organisation and the borough.
- 11.3 For this funding the council was seeking to evaluate the magnitude of the step change that the core funding will realise across the whole organisation so applicants were made aware that applying for this funding would mean they have de facto agreed to the council considering their whole output as part of the grant making process.
- 11.4 However, there was a mixed response from applicants to the challenge set out in through the application process with a number of applicants describing the details of the services that would be funded rather than how core funding would transform delivery models.
- 11.5 As such officers will work with recommended groups to better understand how Lewisham funding can be used to transform delivery models and increased the value realised by this funding.
- 11.6 This approach will also be taken with those recommended for project funding despite this funding initially only being recommended until the end of March 2021. The recommended groups who applied for project funding are:
 - Lewisham refugee welcome

• London Sports Ltd

- London Thunder Basketball
- Millwall community trust
- The front room club - a project of St Luke's Downham
- THYSF - Platform cricket
- Wheels for wellbeing

11.7 Metro also applied for project funding but officers are recommending that they convert this to a core grant to ensure that this provision is brought fully into line with the other coordination services funded under the Strong and Cohesive Communities theme.

12. Scrutiny and appeals process

12.1 All organisations were written to on Thursday 28 February 2019 to inform them of the draft recommendation of their funding level. This letter also acted as five months' notification of a change of funding for all current grant recipients. The letters inform the organisations that unless otherwise stated the recommended award is for 2 years and 8 months (see section 11 above) until 31 March 2022. The letter highlights that all council expenditure is subject to annual review in light of central government cuts to LB Lewisham but any changes to grant funding will be subject to formal consultation. Finally the letter brings applicants' attention to the fact that the new Grant Conditions include a commitment to moving all staff, including subcontractors, to London Living Wage by 2021.

12.2 As part of the main grants process organisations are given the opportunity to appeal against officers' recommendations. The organisations were given until 20th March to write to the council disputing their funding recommendation with the appeals considered at a special meeting of Mayor and Cabinet on Wednesday 27th March where organisations also had the opportunity to present their case in person.

12.3 14 formal appeals were received although 3 of these related to matters of accuracy or related to issues that have been addressed by officers directly leading to the withdrawal of the appeal. These were:

- Lewisham Asian Elders and Carers Group
- Platform Cricket
- Lewisham Pensioners' Forum

12.4 Of the remaining 11 organisations, Contact requested that their submission be considered without further representation while 10 exercised their right to present their case to the meeting in person. Each organisation had 3 minutes to present their case followed by questions and clarification from the Mayor and Cabinet.

12.5 The appeal meeting was a formal meeting of Mayor and Cabinet in public and full details of the appeals, the amount applied for, current grant level (where applicable) and draft officer assessments and recommendations are available at:

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=139&MId=5473>

12.6 Following the consideration of all the appeals it is proposed that a number of the recommendations as detailed throughout this report should be amended. The details of the proposed outcome in relation to each of the appeals is set out in the table

below. Where it is proposed that the outcome is to provide some financial support, that proposal is included in Appendix 1.

Organisation	Outcome of appeal
Voluntary Action Lewisham	Uphold draft recommendation. Officers to broker formal meeting with Rushey Green Timebank to seek to protect existing expertise and the City Bridge Trust funding recently awarded to VAL.
Evelyn 190	Uphold draft recommendation. It is anticipated that funding for specific work is likely to be available via the Advice Lewisham partnership.
Sydenham Arts	Uphold draft recommendation – letter of support offered. Officers to work with Sydenham Arts on the use of the Sydenham Centre.
Montage Theatre Arts -	£1,000 annual award as an indication of on-going Council endorsement. Letter of recommendation from Mayor as required. Officers to work with Montage on the use of the Sydenham Centre.
Greenwich and Lewisham Young Peoples Theatre	Uphold draft recommendation. There was a clear recognition of the scale of the ambition displayed by GLYPT and this was applauded. Officers to work with GLYPT to support them in realising their aims.
Eco Communities	Uphold draft recommendation. Officers to continue to work with Eco to develop their business plan and address accommodation issues where possible.
Ageing Well in Lewisham	£4,000 annual award. This funding is conditional on the development of a business plan, including fundraising strategy, by Ageing Well.
The Grove Centre	£7,500 (pro rata) for 2019/20, £3,750 for 20/21, £0 for 21/22. This funding is to support the Grove Centre on their journey toward self-sufficiency.
Noah's Ark Children's Venture	Uphold draft recommendation but with specific meeting to discuss ways in which links to borough can be maintained.
Lewisham Community Transport Scheme	£35,000 pro-rata for final 8 months of 2019-20 (£23,334). In total this represents £36,892 for the whole of 2019-20 including the ongoing funding to 31 July 2019. This is one off funding to allow LCTS to develop their business model and develop a funding structure to be self-sustaining going forward. Conditions – must engage in positive dialogue with VSL (this will be a condition for VSL as well) and produce a report outlining their approach and support for disabled people.
Contact	Uphold draft recommendation with an acknowledgement that the querying of value for money in the original assessment form was erroneous and that the quality and range of deliver is recognised.

- 12.7 The funding for Montage Theatre Arts, Ageing Well and the Grove Centre comes from the overall contingency held within the draft recommendations while the one off funding for Lewisham Community Scheme is possible due to the delay in the allocation of the flat rate £35,000 for coordination of Disability work – see paragraph 7.5.

- 12.8 In addition to this process the recommendations were considered at the Safer Stronger Committees Select Committee who requested that '*organisations recommended for funding in excess of 100,000 be subject to more rigorous monitoring and scrutiny requirements, with note of critical indicators, including a review of their current governance arrangements, and that confirmation of funding be subject to this*'.
- 12.9 This was considered by Mayor and Cabinet alongside the appeals on 27th March 2019 and was endorsed to be included as a formal recommendation in this report.

13. Financial Implications

- 13.1 This report seeks approval for the proposals to fund voluntary and community sector groups, as set out in Appendix 1, for the period 1 August 2019 – 31 March 2022 unless otherwise stated. The full year cost of £2,990,558 will be funded from the main programme grants budget (£2,562,102) and BCF/iBCF (£428,456). In a full year the proposals will achieve the agreed annual saving of £600k on the grants budget. However as the new programme starts in August 2019 and the existing programme has been extended for the first four months of the financial year, the saving in 2019/20 will only be £400k. The remaining pressure of £200k will be addressed in the context of the overall directorate budget.

14. Legal Implications

- 14.1 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.
- 14.2 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.
- 14.3 The report sets out the process carried out, including in relation to consultation and appeals. 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. The report sets out that the provisions of the Voluntary Sector Compact have been taken into account and complied with.
- 14.4 Decisions on making a grant or giving assistance to a voluntary organisation require the approval of Mayor and Cabinet where the level of a grant is over £10,000 (Mayoral Scheme of Delegation section Q). Those decisions will be key decisions (Constitution Article 16(c)(xiii)).
- 14.5 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) contains a 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.

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.

- 14.6 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.
- 14.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled 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-actcodes-ofpractice- and-technical-guidance/>

- 14.8 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

- 14.9 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/>.

15. Crime & Disorder Implications

- 15.1 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.

16. Equalities Implications

- 16.1 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.
- 16.2 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.
- 16.3 The Council's Comprehensive Equality Scheme 2016-20 identifies 5 priorities
- tackle victimisation, discrimination and harassment
 - improve access to services
 - close the gap in outcomes for all residents
 - increase mutual understanding and respect within and between communities
 - increase citizen participation and engagement
- 16.4 The assessment of each individual application included a range of equalities elements including how well the individual services will seek to engage those who do not traditionally access services.
- 16.5 An overarching Equalities Analysis Assessment (Appendix 4) was then undertaken against the entirety of the draft recommendations with a number amended to ensure that the spread of services recommended for funding under the main grants programme was considered to be fair and equitable and did not disproportionately affect any one particular group. The awarding of grants to a wide variety of organisations that work with and support Lewisham's diverse communities will help to promote equal opportunities.
- 16.6 The £600,000 reduction to the grants programme from 1 August 2019 was analysed in terms of equalities impact, and whilst the recommendations for future funding sought to minimise direct impact on service delivery; individual assessments of the protected characteristics most affected by each funding recommendations led to a number of revisions. Officers will continue to work with individual groups and as well as those funded to provide a coordination function to mitigate specific impact of funding reductions.

17. Environmental Implications

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

18. Conclusion

- 18.1 The Council recognises the important part that the voluntary and community sector plays in the lives of our residents and the main grants programmes seeks to support this provision.
- 18.2 The continued awarding of main grant funding will enable these organisations to continue to deliver much needed services across the borough.
- 18.3 This paper sets out the process for letting the programme for 2019-22 and the recommendations for the allocation of funding. The pattern of services recommended provide an innovative and diverse network of provision and the organisations recommended for a Main Grant have demonstrated that they bring significant added value to Lewisham and deliver a level of service above and beyond that which could be directly funded.

If there are any queries on this report please contact James Lee, Head of Culture and Community Development - james.lee@lewisham.gov.uk, 020 8314 6548.

Appendices

- Appendix 1** – List of organisations recommended for Main Grant funding for 2019-22
- Appendix 2** – Application form and guidance
- Appendix 3** - Assessment guidance
- Appendix 4** – Equalities Assurance Assessment

Appendix 1 – List of organisations recommended for Main Grant funding for 2019-22

Organisation	Amount Requested	Current funding	Final recommendation	Notes
Ackroyd Community Association	£45,320	£41,523	£38,000	
Action for refugees in Lewisham	£83,500	£0	£0	
Age Exchange	£33,000	£27,541	£24,750	
Age UK Lewisham and Southwark Ltd	£110,346	£336,000	£428,456	via BCF/iBCF
Ageing well in Lewisham - LCC	£28,945	£25,637	£4,000	
Asian elders and carers group	£6,800	£0	£0	
BelEve UK	£30,000	£0	0	
Bellingham community project	£34,000	£27,032	£25,000	
BOW Arts	29992	0	0	
Bromley Lewisham and Greenwich Mind	£34,570	£29,579	£0	
Citizens Advice Lewisham	£995,000	£468,720	£866,732	
Community waves	£179,670	£0	0	
Contact	£65,382	£60,606	£49,100	
Deptford methodist mission disabled people contact	£30,000	£6,144	£15,000	
Deptford X	£20,000	£8,474	£8,500	
ECO Communities CIC	£70,000	£33,896	£0	
Entelechy Arts (also WATAS)	£33,800	£33,896	£33,800	
Evelyn 190 Community trust	£175,000	£175,129	£0	
For Jimmy	£65,000	£0	0	
Forest Hill community library	£15,000	£0	0	
Goldsmiths Community Association	£33,500	£20,338	£25,000	
Greenwich and Lewisham young peoples theatre (GLYPT)	£70,000	£68,530	£35,000	
Hartslane	39000	0	0	
Heart N Soul (also WATAS)	£58,472	£58,472	£53,600	
Horniman museum and garden	27516	0	0	
IRIE Dance theatre	£39,999	£21,105	£21,105	
Lee Green Lives	£36,000	£15,600	£25,000	
Lewisham community transport scheme	£75,000	£40,675	£35,000	Allocation for 2019/20 only (pro-rata)
Lewisham education arts network	£37,000	£32,201	£35,000	
Lewisham Local (Rushey Green Time Bank)	£182,000	£76,266	£212,000	
Lewisham Mencap	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000	
Lewisham parent and carer's forum	£18,000	£0	£0	

Lewisham parent and carer's forum	£10,800	£0	£0	
Lewisham pensioners forum	£68,235	£33,896	£35,000	
Lewisham plus credit union ltd	£75,000	£0	0	
Lewisham refugee and migrant network	£190,134	£74,503	£35,000	
Lewisham refugee welcome	£48,300	£0	£20,000	
Lewisham Speaking up	£73,441	£73,441	£66,100	
Lewisham Youth theatre Ltd	£43,000	£36,559	£35,000	
London Sports Ltd	£17,700	£15,000	£15,000	
London Thunder Basketball	£35,000	£21,185	£25,000	
Magpie Dance	7040	0	0	
Max media arts CIC	11800	0	0	
Metro	£34,951	£28,247	£35,000	
Millwall community trust	£34,775	£21,185	£25,000	
Montage Theatre arts	13500	8474	£1,000	
MOSAC	£40,000	£0	£0	
New Cross and Deptford families first ltd	£25,000	£0	0	
Noah's Ark children venture	£36,000	£36,156	0	
Parent support group (South East)	£7,500	£4,271	£0	
Penny Dreadful productions	35000	0	0	
Pepys community forum	£77,493	£0	0	
Quo Vadis Trust	£66,120	£0	£0	
REAP Community	£33,005	£0	£0	
Rural Urban synthesis society (RUSS)	£35,000	£0	£0	
Saxon Crown Swimming club	£15,500	£6,667	£7,750	
Second wave centre for youth arts	£46,142	£45,017	£35,000	
Somerville	£51,621	£20,338	£25,000	
Sounds Like Chaos	57583	0	0	
South East London Arts Network (trading as arts network)	25000		0	
South East London Tennis	£59,837	£25,140	£25,000	
South London Art Map	6000	0	0	
South London Art Map	12000	0	0	
South London Counselling	£150,000	£0	£0	
Stanstead lodge senior club ltd	£50,000	£38,669	£30,000	
Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust	£53,000	£34,586	£35,000	
Sydenham Arts	34353	8474	0	
Sydenham Garden	£45,500	£33,147	£36,400	
T4H Therapy 4 Healing	£126,312	£0	£0	
Teatro Vivo	31200	29377	0	
Thames Reach charity	£34,944	£16,948	£0	
The 2000 community action Centre	£100,000	£0	£25,000	
The Albany (also WATAS)	£268,020	£267,290	£195,000	
The bike project	£24,734	£0	£0	
The front room club - a project of St Luke's Downham	£21,192	£0	£12,715	
The Grove Centre	£13,482	£16,524	£7,500	Allocation reduces to £3,750 in 20/21

				and £0 in 2021/22
The Maypole project	19620	0	0	
The midi music company	£45,000	£44,092	£38,200	
The Royal society for blind children	29969	0	0	
The Ubele initiative	£22,000	£0	0	
THYSF - Platform cricket	£33,600	£0	£25,000	
THYSF - Platform cricket	66667	0	0	
Trinity Laban conservatoire of music and dance	£88,400	£76,831	£60,000	
Urban synergy	£35,000	£0	0	
Voluntary Action Lewisham	£200,000	£210,000	0	
Voluntary Services Lewisham	£220,000	£161,474	£144,000	
WE matter UK	£35,000	£0	£0	
WE Women	£35,000	£0	0	
Wheels for Wellbeing	£34,941	£28,925	£29,350	
Young Lewisham Project	£40,000	£0	0	
Contingency	£0	£0	£2,500	
	£5,882,223	£3,053,780	£2,990,558	
	BUDGET		£2,562,102	
	BCF/iBCF		£428,456	
	TOTAL		£2,990,558	

NB - all allocations are pro-rata for 8 months in 2019/20