

LB Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme

Capacity Building Theme

To enable smaller organisations to become more sustainable, where appropriate providing core funding to lever in other resources, and to support infrastructure organisations.

Projects supported through this theme will focus on building the capacity of local voluntary and community sector organisations. Capacity building could mean programmes of support (for example training and other workforce development activity, organisational advice or consultancy) delivered by local infrastructure organisations or the purchasing of similar support to individual organisations for projects to help them to develop their own capacity.

This theme may also include support for core costs where there is a clear and evidence based case to demonstrate core funding from the Council may generate significant external funding or other support for an organisation's work where, without core funding from the Council, these additional resources would not be available. 'Core costs' in this context could be running costs, such as staff salaries or premises costs, or one off costs, such as ICT or other equipment, or a mixture of the two.

Rationale for grant funding

Empowerment	responsive to new and emerging needs
Innovation	provides the financial means for communities to do things for themselves
Flexibility	can adjust to meet changing needs
Reach	can be accessible to groups which would not otherwise be able to get funding through contractual arrangements
Risk	shares the risk of new innovation between the provider and the funder
Cost effective	can lever in other resources to support community activity

Meets all six criteria for grants, in particular:

- **Reach**
- **Cost effective**

Community Plan and Corporate Plan Priorities

C1	Strong, resilient and safe communities	
C2	Better health and wellbeing	
C3	Good jobs and employment	
C4	A better deal for young people – aspiration, education and skills	
S1	Creating opportunity by supporting aspiration and tackling poverty.	
S2	Creating and maintaining a vibrant and successful place.	
S3	Working smarter together as one team with our partners and community.	

Theme priorities

1. Supporting core costs to facilitate/access other resources (All)

2. Skills exchange and accessible training (All)
3. Making organisations commissioning ready (All)
4. Fundraising support for smaller, volunteer led organisations without staff (All)
5. Developing quality assurance (All)
6. Managing assets for community benefit (C1)
7. Developing resilience and supporting organisations through periods of transition.

Theme outcomes

1. Broader pool of organisations accessing public service contracts
2. Increased proportion of organisations achieving recognised quality assurance standards
3. VCS more resilient with more sustainable funding base
4. Organisations support each other – staff and volunteers are equipped

Examples of projects and activities

- Programme of support for local community groups to develop quality assurance
- Feasibility study of bringing disused grade II listed building back into use as a community building

Eligibility

1. There are no special restrictions on eligibility for this theme.

Levels of Funding Available

1. Up to £500 – one off
2. Over £500 up to £5,000 – up to one year with potential extension for second year
3. Over £5,000 – up to two years with potential extension for third year

Application process

1. Up to £500
Single stage – simplified form
2. Over £500 up to £5,000
Single stage – standard form
3. Over £5,000
Two stage
 - a. Stage 1 Expression of interest
 - b. Stage 2 Full application

Deadlines

Monitoring arrangements	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Up to £500 – end of project report2. Over £500 up to £5,000 – Six month progress report and annual/end of project report and visit.3. Over £5,000 – Six month progress report and project visit	
Contact details for further information	