

LB Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme

Community Cohesion Theme

Developing community resilience, promoting cultural opportunities and reducing social isolation.

This theme provides funding for projects and activities which will help make Tower Hamlets a place where people feel they belong, where diversity and difference is appreciated, where there are strong relationships between people and those from different backgrounds have similar opportunities.

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:

- **Innovation**
- **Reach**

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. Encouraging local pride and belonging (S2)
2. Encouraging volunteering through celebrating the history and culture of the borough (S2)
3. Families and isolated adults sharing experience (C2)
4. Providing opportunities for different communities and groups to come together (C1)
5. Raising awareness and encouraging reporting of hate crime (C1)
6. Intergenerational activity(C1)
7. Events (S2)
8. New ways of engaging with diverse communities (C1)

Theme outcomes (from Community Cohesion outcomes framework)

1. **Increased participation.** Finding and taking up more opportunities to play a role in

the community and volunteering

2. **More social connections.** Diverse people come together overcoming divisions, eg intergenerational, racial, gender and sexual orientation.
3. **Better understanding of each other.** Improved understanding and tolerance of difference, acknowledging shared value
4. **Increased knowledge and skills,** eg equalities, rights, language, communication and leadership.

Examples of projects and activities

- Food festival
- Intergenerational project supporting young people working with older people to improve their ICT skills
- Photography project to document and celebrate the history and cultural of a community
- Regular monthly 'open door' community events

Eligibility

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 to £50,000 – 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 to £50,000
Two stage
 - a. Stage 1 Expression of interest
 - b. Stage 2 Full application

Deadlines

Monitoring arrangements

1. Up to £500 – end of project report

2. Over £500 up to £5,000 – Six month progress report and annual/end of project report and visit.
3. Over £5,000 to £50,000 – Six month progress report and project visit

Contact details for further information	

--	--