

# LB Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme

## Innovation Theme

**To encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap.**

This theme will focus on start up or seed corn projects that may be scaled up or provide a model which can be replicated. It will also encourage developing new ways of engaging diverse communities.

Projects funded under this scheme do not have to be entirely new or innovative overall. However, they should be a different way of doing things for your organisation trying out new approaches, methods or working with new client groups.

### 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**
- **Flexibility**

### 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. New ways of working with young people and helping them make their voices heard (C4)
2. Better family support networks and good parenting (C2)
3. Business start-up (C3)
4. Isolation in ageing communities (C2)
5. Peer group support (S3)
6. Young people mentoring (C4)
7. Community involvement events and community champions (C1)

## Theme outcomes

1. **Greater reach.** Extend the reach of the grants programme to community groups and organisations working in priority areas of activity which do not already receive public funds
2. **Reduce gaps** in service in priority areas of activity to meet unmet needs
3. **Sharing practice and expertise.** Increasing joint working and sharing good practice to develop new and innovative solutions

## Examples of projects and activities

- Installing a composting toilet on an allotment site to make this activity more accessible to older and less mobile people
- Guided riding project to encourage greater participation in cycle riding
- Trialling extended opening hours for a youth club so that young dads can stay on or drop in for tailored support sessions

## Eligibility

1. This theme will give priority to organisations with a turnover of less than £30,000 per annum and projects submitted by larger organisations which demonstrate strong involvement of local people such as projects where an established organisation is supporting a new or un-constituted group.
2. Priority will be given to new groups and groups which have not previously been funded by the Council.

## 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

## Application process

1. Up to £500  
Single stage – simplified form
2. Over £500 up to £5,000  
Single stage – standard form

## 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.

**Contact details for further information**

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