



LBTH Funding Opportunities

LBTH Local Community Fund (LCF)

The council's Local Community fund is now open for bids. The final submission deadline is imminent – midday on Friday 17 May, 2019

The [VCS Strategy 2016-19](#) set out the council's commitment to working towards achieving, "an independent and sustainable voluntary and community sector, working closely with the council and partners to meet the needs of local people wherever they live in the borough".

The Local Community Fund (LCF) has been developed working closely with voluntary and community sector organisations and other stakeholders to reflect this vision and support the voluntary and community sector (VCS) in Tower Hamlets to meet complex needs through flexible and responsive services for local residents. These services and activities will contribute towards achieving the outcomes for local residents set out in the [Tower Hamlets Plan](#) and the [council's Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#).

The LCF will adopt an outcomes based approach, encouraging organisations to build on local knowledge, skills and expertise and to use their flexibility to undertake the activities which have the most impact. The new programme will stimulate greater and more effective support in tackling local issues. It encourages organisations to use the principles of co-design to ensure their services are targeted effectively. This means working together with the people who use their services and with other service providers to respond to change to review and develop their outcomes and the services they will provide over the three and a half years of the programme.

This prospectus sets out the programme in detail. The funding programme has five themes. There are links to the details of each theme below. The priorities within each theme have been grouped into funding schemes which VCS organisations are invited to bid to.

The process will be transparent and fair. The prospectus gives general guidance for bidding. Some funding schemes include specific guidance relevant to their service areas. The criteria and assessment scheme is also included to give organisations a clear idea of what they need to include in their bids and the relative weighting of questions in the assessment process.

All of the details about the LCF can be found on the council's website at www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lcf . Information is also on the [Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service \(THCVS\) website](#).

The final submission deadline is midday on Friday 17 May, 2019. If you have any queries, please contact the VCS team at vcs@towerhamlets.gov.uk.

LBTH Small Grants Programme

Just a little can go a long way...

The council is launching a new programme of small grants for voluntary and community groups to fund innovative projects work which help improve the lives of Tower Hamlets residents and bring local people together to make our communities stronger.

Through setting up this small grants programme we want to empower local communities to do things for themselves through innovative responses to new and emerging needs which are flexible and can adjust to change. The programme will be accessible to groups which might not otherwise be able to get funding through larger funding programmes or be able to bid for funds through contractual arrangements. We hope that this fund will also help local groups lever in other resources such as volunteers to support community activity.

The programme will provide one off 'micro' grants of up to £1,000, grants of up to £5,000 which may be for two years and, for projects which aim to improve community cohesion, up to £20,000.

There are five themes in the programme:

1. **Innovation** to encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap;
2. **Prevention** to promote grass roots activity to reduce the need for statutory services;
3. **Neighbourhood action** to promote local neighbourhood initiatives;
4. **Community cohesion** to develop community resilience, promote cultural opportunities and reduce social isolation, and
5. **Partnership working** making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.

There will be several opportunities to apply to the programme this year. The first round is now open and the timetable is:

1 May	First round launched
24 June	Deadline for first round
1 Sept	First round notifications
1 Oct	New projects begin

Which groups will be eligible?

- There is no restriction on size but smaller organisations will be given priority in some themes, particularly Neighbourhood Action.
- We are looking for projects which have local leadership and benefit local communities. This can mean local geographic communities or communities with a common interest or characteristic.

- Groups are expected to have standards of governance and management which are appropriate to their size. We may also fund unconstituted groups supported by established organisations.
- The programme is only open to community based groups which are not for profit. It is not open to individuals.

The small grants programme is being managed for the council by the East End Community Foundation. EECF is a well-established local funding body and the council is pleased to be working in partnership with the foundation on this programme. Not only will we have the benefit of one of the most experienced funding bodies in London but local groups may also have greater access to the range of other funds managed by the EECF.

For more information please contact:

East End Community Foundation
www.eastendcf.org
 020 7345 4444

LBTH Emergency Funding – revised criteria

At the 1 May 2019 Grants Determination Sub-Committee revisions to the criteria were agreed namely a change to the requirement that an applicant has to be in receipt of Council funding to be eligible. The change means that as long as an organisation has received funding from the Council in the previous two years the application will be able to be considered.

In addition time-limited changes mean that the end of Mainstream Grants (MSG) funding and the move to Local Community Fund (LCF) can be a factor behind organisations facing a financial emergency. The organisation will still need to be facing a ‘life and limb’ emergency and demonstrate that in their application.

The Council’s Grant webpages are being updated but in the meantime the report and decision can be found at the link below:

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=812&MId=9123&Ver=4>

ESF Community Grants Programme

The Tower Hamlets European Social Fund (ESF) Community Employment programme addresses the root causes of poverty, helping people to overcome barriers to work and move closer to, or into a job.

The programme is for smaller organisations with an income of £150k or less (or £250k if the organisation is supporting people with disabilities).

London Councils manage the programme and Round 3 is due to launch on 10 June.

Further information will be circulated when the prospectus and launch date are confirmed.

Tower Hamlets Innovation Fund (match funding through crowdfunding)

Tower Hamlets Council is pleased to invite you to 'Our Tower Hamlets' crowdfunding workshop on Thursday 30th May, 2019 10am – 12pm @The Osmani Centre.

This workshop will provide you with all the information and guidance you need to create an innovative project and to launch it on 'Our Tower Hamlets' crowdfunding portal - Spacehive. Tower Hamlets Innovation fund will provide match funding support of up to £10,000 or up to 50% of the crowdfunding target and encourage innovative project ideas or for organisations to use this as an opportunity to test new programmes.

Previous projects that have successfully reached their funding target on 'Our Tower Hamlets' and secured a pledge through the Innovation Fund include Transform Shoreditch, Betar Bangla, Toynbee Hall, Factory East Community Project and the Stairway to Heaven Memorial Trust.

Further details can be found on the [Our Tower Hamlets Spacehive](#) and [Innovation Fund](#) pages as well as this [factsheet](#).

For more information, please contact Awo.Ahmed@towerhamlets.gov.uk



'What would you do' Community Events

Tuesday 7th May
Idea Store Bow
1:00-4:00pm

Thursday 9th May
Idea Store Watney Market
11:00-2:00pm

Friday 10th May
Chrip Street Market
1:00-4:00pm

Saturday 11th May
Idea Store Whitechapel
11:00am-2:00pm

- Help design health and social care services that fit your needs
- Show us how to make your neighbourhood a healthier place
- Win prizes and a free snack box!

All venues are accessible and all ages are welcome!

For more information, contact us:
info@healthwatchtowerhamlets.co.uk
www.healthwatchtowerhamlets.co.uk
020 8223 8922

what
would you do?
It's your NHS. Have your say.

NHS Long Term Plan – General Survey (Healthwatch Tower Hamlets)

The NHS has released its Long Term Plan, setting out what the NHS want to do to provide better support for people. Healthwatch Tower Hamlets is conducting a survey to find out about the needs of local people, so we can shape services in Tower Hamlets to match the needs of the community. Take the survey today to tell us how you would improve your local health and social care!

Deadline for responses is the 22nd May 2019.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RNX8C6Q>

For more information, please contact
Dianne.Barham@healthwatchtowerhamlets.co.uk

Challenge Poverty Week (CPW) – Planning Event

Challenge Poverty Week 2019 will take place from the 7th to 13th October 2019. We are looking to create a borough-wide campaign, in collaboration with local organisations across all sectors, that will bring to people's attention the rise in poverty, its impact and solutions that are available for those in need.

A theme will be allocated to each day of the CPW where residents, projects and organisations can come together to showcase good work and allow more residents to hear about how poverty can affect them and their community and what is being delivered locally by the voluntary and community sector.

In order to make the week a success a planning event, which will include the Mayor in attendance, is being organised. The purpose of this will be to plan a range of events showcasing work currently being delivered locally to 'challenge poverty'. The planning meeting will:

- give you more information about the week;
- discuss how you would like your organisation to be involved;
- think about how residents can be involved;
- discuss what the Council needs to do to support your organisation to get involved.

We are aiming to hold the planning event in June which will include a networking lunch. Further details will be available soon, but if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in contact with us via email –

lbthresidentsupport@towerhamlets.gov.uk

VCS Strategy / Policy

LBTH Social Value Framework

The Council's Social Value Framework was agreed by Cabinet last year. The purpose of the framework is to broaden the scope of how we interpret social value to include a wider range of key priorities for the council. Using these priorities, the framework intends to build on our existing Community Benefits approach to develop a number of schedules to broaden the approach beyond employment, skills & enterprise and to now include environmental benefits aimed at the voluntary and community sector.

The development of the social value framework was informed by recommendations from the Social Value Act Scrutiny Challenge Session (April 2017) and research that the Council commissioned through Social Enterprise UK (SEUK). The recommendations from these two pieces of work and the full social value framework can be found at item 6.4 of the below link:

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=720&MId=8826&Ver=4>

A component of the Framework is to test new and innovative approaches to securing social value benefits. With this the Council successfully piloted the Firesouls social e-auction where suppliers offered between £29,000 and £81,000 in social value benefits as part of their bids, exceeding the initial target of £28,000. Further information on the successes of the pilot can be found [here](#).

Other News

Pension Credit



Unclaimed benefit: Pension Credit

Are you missing out on the financial support that you are entitled to?



To find out more, visit:
www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/PensionCredit

Resident Support Scheme

Tower Hamlets can provide essential crisis support to some of its most vulnerable residents through the new Residents' Support Scheme. This service replaces the Crisis Grant from 10 December 2018. There is a strict eligibility criteria in place in order to reach the most in need at times of great difficulty.

What kind of support can you get?

The scheme is designed to support residents who are either in or at risk of being in crisis, are in need of immediate help and have no source of financial support available to them.

The Residents' Support Scheme will help with short term living costs such as credit food and gas/electric prepayment metres. It can also help in some circumstances with white goods and furniture. Cash will not usually be awarded, but a pay point voucher can be supplied to the applicant where necessary.

Vouchers will be awarded to enable residents to purchase the items that they require, such as furniture. If white goods, such as a washing machine or fridge are required, then these items will be purchased through the scheme and the delivery will be arranged with the resident directly to their home. Household goods will be paid by voucher, which will be received within five working days of the decision being made.

The scheme will also signpost residents to other sources of support that is available to ensure that they can get the maximum level of help. There may also be the

opportunity for referral for advice/assistance with financial, debt and/or welfare benefits to try and address the resident's long term needs.

Who does the scheme help?

Residents must be aged 16 years or over and must not be subject to any UK immigration control. The council has identified the following groups as a priority to support –

- those experiencing domestic abuse
- families with young children
- older people
- people with longer term illnesses
- people with disabilities
- people with mental health needs
- households with a pregnant person

What will not be awarded?

Not every application will be awarded. The scheme will not award:

- any application made that is felt to be 'not an immediate need' or where alternative means of support is available
- applications from those with sufficient income or savings
- clothing (except in exceptional circumstances where someone is fleeing their home e.g. flood, fire, domestic violence)
- minor structural repairs where these are the responsibility of the landlord or the owner.
- furniture and household items where living in private rented furnished accommodation or furnished temporary accommodation, where this is the responsibility of the landlord
- specialist disability equipment or adaptations, recliner chairs, wheelchairs and mobility scooters
- personal debts – we will refer to appropriate agencies for support.
- phone costs or associated expenses

How do you apply?

You can make your application to the scheme online at any time. You will need to provide information about:

- where you live
- who you live with
- your circumstances
- your income
- your health
- what help you are applying for

How To Apply?

A simple application can be made online through the Council's website – www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/residentsupportscheme

You can also make an application by telephone - 020 7520 7217

If you need any help with completing the application then there are many local organisations that can help you such as -

- Local charities
- Housing providers
- Legal advice and guidance organisations
- Welfare benefits and debt advice organisations
- Children's Centres
- Social Care teams

Dates for your Diary

Date	Item	Other details
Thursday 9 th May, 11am – 2pm	Healthwatch Community Events	Idea Store Watney Market
Friday 10 th May, 1pm – 4pm		Chrip Street Market
Saturday 11 th May, 11am – 2pm		Idea Store Whitechapel
Friday 17 May 2019	Local Community Fund (LCF) application deadline	Details www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lcf
Thursday 30 th May, 10am – 12pm	'Our Tower Hamlets' Spacehive crowdfunding workshop	Osmani Centre, 58 Underwood Rd, London E1 5AW
Monday 24 June 2019	LBTH Small Grants Programme Deadline for first round	Details www.eastendcf.org