

LB Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme

Neighbourhood Action Theme

Promoting local neighbourhood initiatives.

This theme focuses on supporting local people to get together, get organised and get things done in their local neighbourhoods. This may be physical such as some sort of neighbourhood improvement or it may be to promote the interests of the local neighbourhood through a campaign on a specific issue of local concern or group to promote the interests of the local area.

Projects seeking funds in this theme will focus on a geographic locality, will be inclusive and open to anyone in that area and managed by local people. In this theme the Council is particularly keen to hear from local groups which may not be fully constituted yet but either intend to become formal organisations or are working in partnership with an established voluntary organisation.

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:

- **Empowerment**
- **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. Supporting neighbourhood events (S2)
2. Creating social spaces for a cross section of the community (C1)
3. Local 'Clean ups' and environmental improvements (S2)
4. Alternatives to crime reduction and reducing ASB (C1)
5. Promoting local opportunities for volunteering and community action (C1)

Theme outcomes

1. Increased resident voice and participation Increase the proportion of local residents who feel their views are heard by policy makers
2. More active citizens Increase the proportion of local residents who participate in local community activities
3. Increased neighbourhood resilience
4. Improved safety/sense of security Increase the proportion of local residents who feel their community is a safe and secure place to live

Examples of projects and activities

- Restoration of a local amenity by community
- Food growing and skills sharing project on 'landlocked' unused plot
- Project to increase public participation in the development of a new community facility
- Speed dating in local areas to encourage volunteering
- WhatsApp group re ASB/community safety
- Community notice boards up to date as well as on line

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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