

THCVS 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

5 June 2025, 4.30pm to 6.00pm, St Hilda's Community Centre, London E2 7EY

Welcome and introductions

Jama Omar (Chair) welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

THCVS achievements and accounts 2023-24

Vicky Scott presented the annual report. Headlines include:

During the year when THCVS lost its core funding from the local authority, we re-visited our core work, who we are and what we do. Consulting both voluntary and community groups and statutory partners, we developed a new strategy, taking into consideration particularly the needs of the smallest voluntary and community groups, agreeing on three core strategic objectives:

- Objective 1: **Voluntary and community groups in Tower Hamlets will have a stronger voice**
- Objectives 2: **Voluntary and community groups in Tower Hamlets will have access to the resources they need**
- Objective 3: **Voluntary and community groups in Tower Hamlets will have increased confidence, connections and skills**

THCVS carried out a State of the Sector survey, discovering that 57% of groups were financially vulnerable, and that activity and investment was largely concentrated in the west of the borough. THCVS has, as a response, prioritised work with small groups in these local areas, particularly in the east of the borough. It has concentrated on continuing its core work alongside advocating for the sector and bringing in funding.

The Treasurer, Haydor Ali, provided a summary of the financial position and referred members to the annual accounts for more detail. Headlines from the 2023/24 accounts:

- Income was £972,362, up from £681,349 in 2022/23.
- Expenditure was £887,657 up from £616,930, in 2022/23.
- There was a surplus of £84,705, up from £64,420 in 2022/23.

Tower Hamlets CVS

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Trustee elections

Jama Omar thanked Zoe Eccles, Vice Chair, who is standing down at this election, and presented her with a small gift.

Jama Omar invited the candidates standing for re-election and election to say a few words:

- Chris Ley, standing for re-election.
- Selina Uddin, standing for re-election (Selina was unable to attend and Vicky Scott read out her candidate statement).
- Femi Akindeji, standing for election, having been previously co-opted by trustees.
- Dayna Ambris, standing for election, having been previously co-opted by trustees.
- Michael Omolola, standing for election, having been previously co-opted by trustees.

There was a vote for the candidates and to approve the minutes of the 2023 AGM. There was a clear majority for each vote.

Group discussion

Vicky Scott introduced the group discussion, about how to improve the working relationship with the council. Key issues were communication with the voluntary and community groups, the need for better engagement between council departments, and better grants and procurement processes.

The suggestions on how to strengthen working relationships included:

- More meaningful co-production, including talking to voluntary and community groups at the planning stage.
- Giving more time for consultations and giving feedback afterwards about what was.
- Recognise the expertise of voluntary and community groups.
- Provide clear processes for resolving disputes in a timely manner.
- Ensure prompt payment of grants and contracts.
- Provide for cost of living increase in tender process.
- Strategic discussions are required when organisations are at risk (e.g. case of Attlee Youth Centre, which is three months off closure).

Steve Halsey (CEO London Borough of Tower Hamlets) noted the concerns of THCVS members.

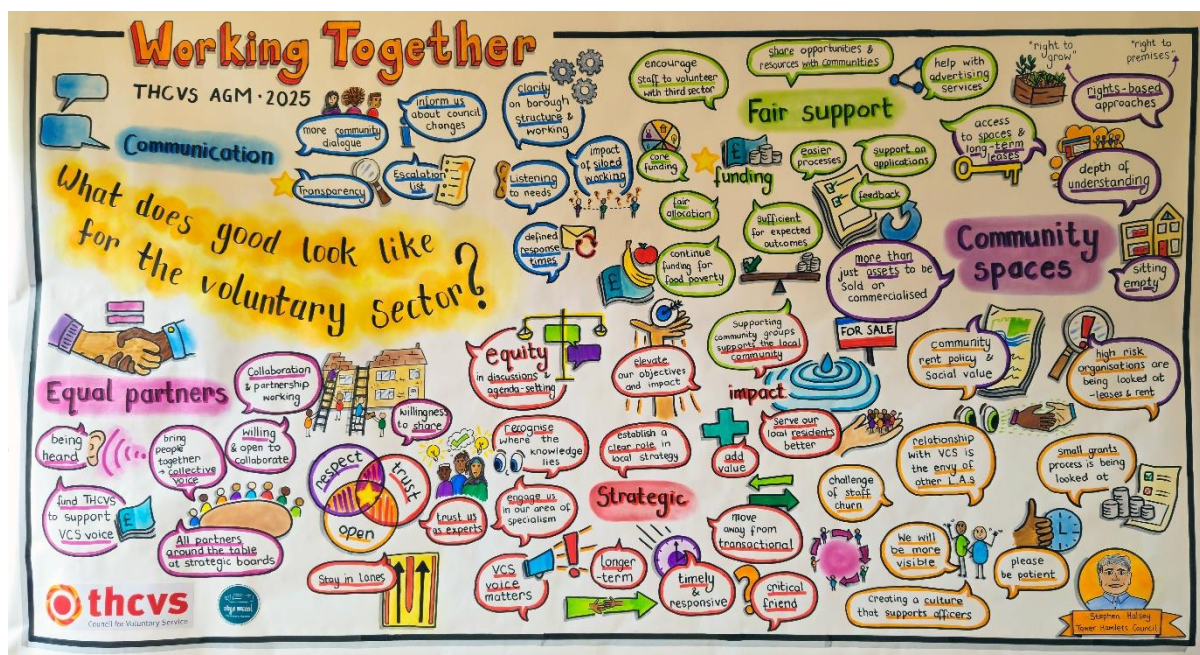
David Joyce (Corporate Director of Housing and Regeneration, London Borough of Tower Hamlets) noted that THCVS has highlighted a number of issues with voluntary and community groups' leases and he is meeting many of these organisations to resolve their issues. Some are close to being resolved.

Councillor Saied Ahmed noted that he had listened to the concerns of THCVS members and would work with officers in the council to resolve the issues.

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[Skye McCool](#) was present throughout the AGM to capture some of the thoughts of attendees, creating the following visual note:



Thank yous

Trustees Chris Ley and Dayna Ambris thanked members and guests.

Following the AGM Steve Halsey sent a letter to all attendees committing to good practice in co-production, a review of the small grants process, recognition of the contribution of voluntary and community groups, reviewing the council's capacity-building arrangements and addressing the lease-related issues. He also asked attendees to complete a survey to try to measure progress in building relationships between council and voluntary and community groups.

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