

RECORD OF OFFICER EXECUTIVE DECISION

State if decision exempt from publication: General Release

Certain information may be exempt from publication if it falls under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. However, these exemptions only apply so long as, in the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

No	Date of Decision:	6/3/2024						
1.	Name of Decision Maker and Job Title:	Serena Simon, Director of Communities						
2.	Status of the decision (e.g. by Executive Director in consultation with Portfolio Holder under the Constitution):	Decision to award grants under the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) grant programme 2024 – 2027 by Director of Communities as authorised by the Executive Director of Environment and City Management (see further below)						
3.	Specific Delegation from Executive (Leader, Cabinet or Cabinet Member) / Committee:	Cabinet Decision ' VCS Core Grants ' was approved on 30 October 2023 approved the establishment of the VCS grant programme 2024- 2027 and delegated authority to award grants to the Executive Director of Innovation and Change. This role no longer exists and Communities is now within Environment and City Management. The Executive Director, Environment and City Management, delegated authority to the Director of Communities on 1/3/2024						
4.	Other Consultees involved. (i.e. Director of Law & Finance):	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Voluntary Sector and Senior Solicitor from local authority Legal Services						
5.	Material considered as part of the decision making process. Include how best value achieved and equality objectives met (as appropriate):	<p>Applications for Core Grants Funding were open from 20th November 2023 to 22nd December 2023 and 73 eligible applications were received.</p> <p>Full criteria and eligibility for the programme can be found here VCS core funding programme Westminster City Council Applications were reviewed by a multi-disciplinary panel of council and VCS professionals. The assessed applications based on how far applicants aligned with the aims of the programme (as outlined in the programme prospectus found in link above), and based on the breadth and depth of the organisation's impact on Westminster communities, the difference the funding will make to the organisation, and the clarity of the organisation's vision. Applicants were also screened for eligibility through the Charity Commission, impact reports and published annual accounts.</p>						
6.	Decision taken: To award grants totalling £989,529 per annum over 3 years (total of £2,968,587 for the 3 years) to 54 organisations:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Organisation name</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Grant award (per annum)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7 Spheres</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£6,211.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Abdul Mageed Educational Trust</td> <td style="text-align: center;">£12,150.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Organisation name	Grant award (per annum)	7 Spheres	£6,211.00	Abdul Mageed Educational Trust	£12,150.00
Organisation name	Grant award (per annum)							
7 Spheres	£6,211.00							
Abdul Mageed Educational Trust	£12,150.00							

Adventure Play Hub	£15,000.00
All Stars Youth Club Limited	£30,000.00
Central London Youth Development Trust	£15,000.00
Chinese Community Centre	£22,000.00
Chinese Information and Advice Centre	£15,000.00
Controlling Chemsex	£14,955.72
Creative Futures (UK) Limited	£21,500.00
DreamArts	£30,000.00
Dutch Pot Lunch & Social Club	£9,976.00
ESP FOUNDATION	£15,000.00
Fitzrovia Community Centre	£30,000.00
Fun 4 Over 50's CIC	£12,425.00
Happy Lizzy Event Planning CIC	£15,000.00
Harrow Road Soup Kitchen	£3,967.50
Hear Women	£15,000.00
Home-Start Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham	£30,000.00
Hurdles2Hoops C.I.C	£15,000.00
Kongolese Centre for Information & Advice	£15,000.00
Kulan Somali Organisation	£14,560.00
LEGS (Local Exercise Groups for stroke and neurological conditions)	£15,000.00
London Basketball Association	£30,000.00
Mala CHERGA Theatre	£15,000.00
Marylebone Bangladesh Society	£30,000.00
Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation	£23,429.00
Neighbourhood Doulas CIO	£15,000.00
North Paddington Foodbank	£30,000.00
North Paddington Youth Club	£14,700.00
Paddington Arts	£30,000.00
Paddington Law Centre	£29,528.00
Partnership: London Advocacy Group Ltd (Lead) & Human Rights Solidarity	£30,000.00
Pimlico Musical Foundation	£15,000.00
Pimlico Toy Library	£15,000.00
Queen's Park Bangladesh Association (QPBA)	£15,000.00
Queer East CIC	£15,000.00
Shadow to Shine CIO	£15,000.00
Sketch Appeal CIC	£14,000.00
South Westminster Community Festival	£8,700.00
Sport4Health Community Interest Company	£15,000.00
St. Vincent's Family Project	£27,033.00
Tell It Parents Network	£10,504.00
The Caxton Youth Organisation	£30,000.00
The Mosaic Community Trust UK	£14,850.00
The Sudanese Nubian Association UK	£15,000.00
Treasure Sports Club CIC	£15,000.00

	Unfold	£29,400.00
	Union Dance Trust Ltd	£15,000.00
	WEPT (Women Empowerment Project & Training)	£15,000.00
	Westbourne Park Family Centre	£29,640.00
	Westminster Arts / trading as Resonate Arts	£15,000.00
	Westminster Bangladeshi Welfare Trust (WBWT)	£15,000.00
	Women's Association For Networking and Development	£15,000.00
	Zodiac Arts	£10,000.00
	<p>The remaining unallocated funds totalling £10,471 per annum (£31,413 over 3 years) to be allocated on a discretionary basis where need arises, to organisations that align with the criteria and objectives of the overarching programme. Such allocations will follow the same delegated authority sign-off process as the initial core funding grants, following recommendations by the Communities Department staff.</p>	
7.	Reasons for the Decision:	The 3-year core funding programme gives the opportunity to strengthen and empower the vital work that the voluntary sector does in Westminster, and this decision implements the decision taken by Cabinet.
8.	Risk Analysis:	N/A
9.	Details of alternative options considered and rejected:	N/A
10.	Conflicts of interest declared by any Executive Member/ other Member or officer consulted by the decision maker which relates to the decision:	No conflicts of interest noted
11.	Dispensations Granted: (If any)	N/A

I certify that this is a true record of the executive decision in relation to VCS Core Grants Funding

Signed by the Director of Communities

Dated 6/3/2024

Name: Serena Simon



Job Title: Director of Communities