

MINUTES OF MEETING Cabinet Member Signing HELD ON Tuesday, 12th March, 2024

PRESENT:

Councillors: Ruth Gordon

ALSO ATTENDING: Helen McDonough (Head of Inclusive Economy Regeneration & Economy Development), Julie Khan (Employment & Skills Manager) and Boshra Begum (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

8. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred to the notice of filming at meetings and this information was noted.

9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

11. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

12. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/QUESTIONS

There were no deputations/petitions/questions.

13. APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND PEOPLE AND SKILLS GRANT APRIL 2024- MARCH 2025

The Cabinet Member for Council House building, Placemaking, and Local Economy wanted it noted that paragraph 1.1 of the report contained an error and should instead read: 'this proposal seeks the approval from the Cabinet Member for Council House building, Placemaking, and Local Economy for Haringey Council to accept £807,302 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) revenue funding from Central London Forward for the period spanning April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025. No additional funding is required for this grant. The allocated funds will directly support Opportunity Haringey, our Inclusive Economy Framework Theme 3 – Good Work and Skills and be delivered by a collaboration of Haringey Learns and Haringey Works'.

It was noted that the Cabinet Member Introduction of the report should be revised and that the revised Cabinet Member Introduction should be as follows:

2.1. The People and Skills element of UKSPF came into force once European Social Fund monies ceased, and this element was released in October 2023 for the period up to March 2025. This funding has gone to the GLA for distribution. The GLA are using the funding in two ways firstly they are commissioning a range of People and Skills programmes, and the remaining balance of funds have been devolved to sub-regional partnerships. Haringey is part of the Central London Forward (CLF) partnership and the borough allocation to Haringey is spend, £807,302 for the 24/25 financial year.

2.2. Haringey's approved plan for use of SPF funding outlines our intention to deliver employment support to residents furthest from the labour market through our Haringey Works and Haringey Learns services, and to work closely with locality and customer facing services across the Council to target residents facing the greatest barriers to accessing employment support. This aligns to our ambitions set out in Opportunity Haringey our Inclusive Economy Framework which aims to achieve an inclusive, more resilient economy, that is better able to withstand economic shocks and where our businesses can grow and thrive; with an economy that provides rewarding, well paid (at least London Living Wage) work. These ambitions directly align with the aims of the People and Skills UKSPF activities.

2.3. Haringey Works and Haringey Learns are central to delivering the aspirations of Theme 3 of Opportunity Haringey – 'Good Work and Skills' through a targeted and community based approach

The Cabinet Member for Council House building, Placemaking, and Local Economy RESOLVED:

To approve acceptance of a grant from CLF for £807,302 for the delivery of the UKSPF People and Skills programme. The current agreement is for a grant of £807,302, however dependent on whether there are underspends by other authorities Cabinet are requested to approve acceptance of up to a grant of £900,000. This will create an Employment Support programme providing additional capacity for Haringey Works and Haringey Learns to deliver employment and skills support for Haringey Residents. This is in accordance with Contract Standing Order 17.1 Where the Council receives a grant from an external body, the process for approving or varying the agreement for the grant shall be the same as that set out in CSO 9.07 (i.e. the Director may approve receipt of a grant valued at less than £500,000. For approval of receipt of grants valued at £500,000 or more, a Cabinet decision is required).

Reasons for decision

1. Haringey has a track record of delivering high quality employment support through Haringey Works and a range of partners. Haringey Learns has had two consecutive positive Ofsted reports.

2. The acceptance of this UKSPF grant will enable the council to continue to deliver employment support to residents who are unemployed or economically inactive, and support the restructuring of the service and introducing new ways of working.

Alternative options considered

1. Option to not accept - In a period of continuing employment challenges for Haringey's residents as unemployment pressure is expected to continue in to 2024, not accepting the funding would make the Council less able to support into employment those furthest away from the job market.
2. Option to commission delivery through sub-contracting – this would create an additional layer of contract management and reduce the funding available to directly support residents. Haringey Works is the Council's employment support service with a track record of successfully supporting residents into employment and is aligned to Haringey Learns, our Adult Learning Service.

14. OPPORTUNITY HARINGEY WORKSPACE FUND

The Cabinet Member for Council House building, Placemaking, and Local Economy introduced the report highlighting its support for small and medium-sized enterprises. The demand for Opportunity Workspace Haringey funding was noted, emphasising the importance of engaging with partners to increase the supply, making this funding valuable.

The Cabinet Member for Council House Building, Placemaking and Local Economy RESOLVED to:

(a) Provides delegated authority to the Director of Placemaking and Housing to undertake further due diligence, negotiate and agree the terms, and approve the final funding agreements for the recommended workspace projects for the Opportunity Haringey Workspace Fund.

(b) Subject to satisfactory completion of the above, allocate up to £3.9m of Opportunity Haringey Workspace Fund resources, as set out in section 6, to the following projects with funding gaps, the details of which are set out in the exempt part B report:

- (i) Wood Green affordable creative workspace;
- (ii) Tottenham affordable music studios workspace; and,
- (iii) Tottenham affordable community co-working workspace.

Reasons for decision

1. The Opportunity Haringey Workspace Fund was set-up to enable additional workspace to come forward in the borough, which is a key priority of Opportunity Haringey – the Council's inclusive economic framework. The sources of funding are set out in section 6. It is an ambitious fund that aims to have a catalytic effect through supporting new and expanding workspace projects that have a funding gap. It was established as a result of:

- (a) recognition that workspace is a highly effective way to support economic

growth, inclusive economy and regeneration for Haringey's creative economy and thriving SME sector, noting workspaces are in high demand amongst SMEs and two thirds of the workspace in Haringey are focussed on the creative economy;

(b) the Council having sufficient capital funding within the approved capital programme, relevant external grants and Council match funding to external grants, for spend on workspace projects;

(c) the aim to deliver additional workspace meeting funder requirements within tight timelines; and,

(d) awareness of multiple compelling workspace projects in the borough with funding gaps.

2. There was an open call for funding proposals starting from 19th December 2023 for a six-week period. Application briefing sessions were provided to interested parties. Following receipt of applications, eligibility requirement checks took place ahead of a multi-disciplinary funding panel convening to assess the applications in detail. The panel included officers from Economic Development, Regeneration, Property and Finance. The panel assessed and scored eligible applications in light of the following priorities: strategic priority alignment and clear funding gap, track record, deliverability, impact, and value for money.

3. The funding panel recommends Opportunity Haringey Workspace Fund resources are allocated to the following projects:

(a) Wood Green affordable creative workspace - Creation of affordable creative workspace in Wood Green. This project will enable much needed additional workspace in the borough and has potential to stimulate others in the market to bring forward workspace in Wood Green. It would support the cultural character of Wood Green, support local job growth, and will generate additional workspace in the borough. Forecast outputs: over 2,500 square metres of new workspace, 350 jobs, 160 businesses to be supported and bring in over £0.8m additional funding to the borough.

(b) Tottenham affordable music studios workspace - Creation of affordable music studios in containers. This project will enable additional workspace in the borough, strengthen the music industry, which has a strong and growing presence in Haringey and Tottenham, and meets increased demand for more of this type of space in the borough. Forecast outputs: over 125 square metres of new workspace, 25 jobs and 15 businesses to be supported.

(c) Tottenham affordable community co-working space - Creation of an affordable community co-working space in Tottenham to support existing and new residential communities with a modern inclusive work environment. Forecast outputs: over 1,250 square metres of new workspace, 250 jobs and businesses to be supported and bring in £0.7m additional to the borough.

4. The funding panel recommends the funding allocation as detailed above as it:

(a) will support Haringey's creative economy, inclusive economic growth and thriving SME sector;

(b) is a positive step to invest in some of the organisations and workspace providers which are tried and tested, and investment ready;

(c) supports projects that meet the eligibility requirements, have a good financial standing, have a clear funding gap that wouldn't happen without funding support, collectively bring in additional investment in the borough

and align with criteria outlined in 3.2;

(d) will enable additional workspace in the borough, fulfilling a key ambition of Opportunity Haringey inclusive economy framework, which was adopted at Cabinet in November 2023;

(e) fulfils funder requirements, enabling external grant funding to be invested in Haringey, and meet the Council's match funding requirements; and,

(f) the proposed projects for funding provide a balanced approach that align well with strategic priorities, deliverability, impact, and value for money.

5. The funding agreements will have clear clawback rights for grants and call-in rights for loans, as well as other provisions that will ensure the workspaces continue as envisaged for the long-term. This is important to ensure the Council has the right level of control over its investments over the whole period.

6. This report recommends delegated authority to the Director of Placemaking and Housing to negotiate and agree the terms, funding arrangements and approve the final funding agreements for the workspace projects.

Alternative options considered

1. Officers considered direct awarding the available funding as an alternative approach to an open call for funding proposals through setting up the Opportunity Haringey Workspace Fund. However, setting up the fund was selected as the preferred option for reasons set out in paragraph 3.1.

2. Officers considered returning the funding drawn down to date from the City of London Corporation (as detailed below) that was used for feasibility studies regarding re-developing Council commercial properties into workspace. However, setting up the fund was deemed in the best interests of Haringey as it would enable a further £1.5m grant funding to be invested in the borough to increase employment space which is needed for inclusive economic growth.

15. NEW ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of urgent business.

16. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item 6 & 7 was subject to a motion to exclude the press and public be from the meeting as it contained exempt information as defined in Section 100a of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Section 12A of the Local Government Act 1985); para 3, namely information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

17. EXEMPT - OPPORTUNITY HARINGEY WORKSPACE FUND

The Cabinet Member considered the exempt information.

18. NEW ITEMS OF EXEMPT URGENT BUSINESS

There were no new items of exempt urgent business.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date