

Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission 30th September 2020 Item 7 – Update on Thames Water Donation for Lea Bridge Distribution / Use of Funds	Item No 7
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Outline

In response to the letter sent by the Chair of the LiH Scrutiny Commission to Thames Water - relaying the concerns raised by a Commission Member around what was described as continuing issues following the mains burst and resulting flooding in Lea Bridge in October 2018 - the Council received a £10,000 donation specifically in recognition of the impact caused by the 2018 mains burst and flood in the Lea Bridge Ward, and that it is intended as a goodwill donation for the community affected by this specific incident over and above any compensation owed to individual claimants.

The Commission asked the ward councillors to make recommendations and suggest ideas for spend to benefit the local community. Following some consultation with residents the ward councillors recommended giving £5k to Hackney Foodbank and £5k to a local playgroup in the Ward.

In relation to the governance for the funding. LBH Officers are recommending the following:

1. The donations are unrestricted, i.e. the Trustees and management of the organisations can decide what the best use of the funds is.
2. The Grants Team write to both organisations with a letter of agreement. The agreement letter will advised them about the Thames Water gift and that a proportion of the funds are being passed on to them. The Grants Team will contact them in six months (if that is what is agreed) to ask for the short update detailing how they used the funds, to be shared with Cllrs and the public through appropriate channels such as ward forums/scrutiny commission/press releases.

The Hackney Council Grants Team will administer this process on behalf of the Living in Hackney Scrutiny Commission and the Lea Bridge Ward Councillors.

The discussion will cover:

The Commission to approve the allocation of funds (taking into consideration the recommendation by the local **ward councillors** from Lea Bridge Ward) and to agree the governance process or any restrictions on the donations e.g. for a specific use.

Attending for this item will be:

London Borough of Hackney

- **Cllr Ian Rathbone**, Ward Councillor for Lea Bridge

Action

The Commission is asked to approve the allocation of the funds and the governance process for the distribution and use of funds.