

## Appendix A

# Financial and Procedural Rules Governing the Mayor's Charity Appeal

## 1 The Mayor's Selection of Charities to support

- 1.1 The Mayor shall name not more than three charities which he or she wishes to support for his or her term of office as Mayor. For the avoidance of doubt, funds collected are in the name of the office of the Mayor of the London Borough of Brent and not in an individual capacity.
- 1.2 The incoming Mayor shall inform the Mayor's Office of the names of the charities which he or she wishes to support no later than four weeks before the Annual General Meeting or two weeks in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.3 The charities chosen by the Mayor must be registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales at the date they are selected.
- 1.4 The charities chosen by the Mayor must benefit the inhabitants of Brent and be locally based or a local branch of a national charity where the aims and objectives of which benefit the resident of Brent.
- 1.5 Prior to announcement of the Mayor's nominated charities at the Annual General Meeting, officers of the council shall confirm that:
  - the charities meet appropriate standards for governance,
  - are financially viable,
  - are likely to endure for the duration of the Mayoral year, and
  - have not been the subject of Charity Commission concerns within the last two years at the date officers make enquiries

If the requirements set out in this paragraph are complied with, a record shall be made accordingly. In the event that there are reasonable concerns expressed by officers, the Mayor shall be asked to make an alternative choice of charity to support.

## 2 Collection and Donation of Funds

- 2.1 It shall be assumed that the funds collected during the Mayor's term of office shall be divided equally between the chosen charities unless otherwise specified by the Mayor in writing at the outset of his/her term of office, or unless a donor specifies that their donation be for one specific charity.

- 2.2 Where more than one charity is named, donors should where practical be given the choice of donating to only one of the charities that the Mayor has chosen, rather than the donation being split. A separate record will be kept by the Mayor's Office of donations falling into this category.
- 2.3 The funds collected shall be used for the general purposes of the charity named and there shall be no collections for specific projects.
- 2.4 Where one or more of the Mayor's chosen charities is no longer fit or able to receive the funds collected as determined by the Chief Finance Officer or ceases for whatever reason to operate or be registered the relevant proportion of the funds shall (following consultation with the Mayor) be added to the funds to be donated to the remaining of the Mayor's chosen charities (if any) or a registered charity which has the closest aims and functions to those originally named.

### **3. Role of Mayor's Office**

#### General

- 3.1 The Mayor's Office will assist the Mayor in choosing the Charities for the year, should the incoming Mayor need guidance. Due care should be taken to ensure that the chosen charities are reputable, registered with the Charities Commission and will benefit significantly from monies raised.
- 3.2 The Mayor's Office will ensure that the Mayor's Charity Appeal is registered under, The Gambling Act 2005 (this relates to the selling of raffle tickets).

#### Day to day management

- 3.3 A receipt book will be maintained to record all receipts and donations.
- 3.4 All donations received will be receipted, acknowledged by a different person from the person who collected the donation, and passed to Finance to be banked.
- 3.5 The Executive Support Manager will be responsible for authorising expenditure from the Charity Appeal account.
- 3.6 Where raffle tickets are sold, a record will be kept of how many tickets have been issued and this will be cross referenced with the amount of money collected.

- 3.7 The **Civic and Member Services Executive Support** Manager will ensure all steps required to comply with Lotteries and Amusements Act are undertaken.

#### **4. Role of Finance**

##### General

- 4.1 A new charity appeal bank account will be opened at the beginning of each Mayoral Year. All transactions will be finalised within 3 months of the end of the Mayoral Year and the account will be closed no later than 6 months after the end of the Mayoral year.

##### Day to day management

- 4.2 Bank reconciliations will be carried out monthly and all discrepancies resolved monthly.
- 4.3 All **cash** donations passed on by the Mayor's Office will be banked and a receipt issued to the Mayor's Office for cash donations.
- 4.4 Invoices will only be paid if signed off by the Mayor's Office and **Civic and Member Services Manager or the Director of Performance, Policy and Partnership. Head of Executive and Member Services**. Finance will check the signature and invoice for accuracy and records will be kept on file.
- 4.5 Cheques can only be signed by an authorised signatory within Finance

#### **5. General**

- 5.1 All payments from the Charity Account should be by cheque **or bank transfer**. Where payments not exceeding £20 each need to be made in cash for expediency, then a receipt shall be obtained from the person who receives the cash, with details as to why the cash was paid.
- 5.2 The Council cannot pay advances into the Charity Appeal account in lieu of expected funds to be raised or underwrite any losses. Therefore, the Mayor's Charity Appeal account should not be overdrawn at any time.
- 5.3 Should the Mayor wish to invite interested persons to form a fundraising group to assist with the appeal, this group will play no active role in the finances of the Charity Appeal.

## **6. Public Accountability**

- 6.1 On closing the account, monies will only be paid to a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.
- 6.2 If the Mayor wishes to divide the funds other than equally between the chosen charities he/she must make this clear at the beginning of the Mayoral year so that donors are aware of where their contributions are going.
- 6.3 Donors should where practical be given the choice of donating to only one of the charities that the Mayor has chosen, rather than the donation being split. A separate record will be kept by the Mayor's Office of donations falling into this category.
- 6.4 A clear statement giving details of all donations received and all expenditure incurred should be available for any member of the Council or for any member of the public to inspect by appointment.

**March 2023**