

Spending of the Good Growth grant for Queen's Market

Total grant of £ 7,243,456 was awarded in 2020 by Mayor of London (44%), Newham Council (30%), Government Levelling Up Fund (26%)

Over £2,192,154 has been spent as of November 2024, yet there's little improvement to Queen's Market for shoppers and traders. The Council says the promised new floor is too expensive, even though it was the No.1 improvement chosen in consultations.

The grant is partly "to upgrade the existing building to help improve the look, feel and function of the Queen's Market." Four projects were chosen by the council and funds allocated as follows:

£2,592,400	£571,400	£2,526,600	£1,303,056
Queen's Market	Queen's Square	Green Street Workspace	'Creative wellbeing space'
		Not going ahead as of May 2024. Funds moved to 'Creative wellbeing space' project.	'Creative wellbeing space' now has £3,829,656, which is half the total grant. £449,669 was spent, with nothing having been built as of Nov 2024

AMOUNT SPENT as of November 2024. The size of the figures is baffling.

£ 346,138

Public toilets and refit of a new office for managers

- The public did not ask for a new office, nor was it was not part of the consultation.
- There are no bins in the toilets for sanitary products.
- A credit card is needed to enter the toilets.

£ 116,530

Removal of pigeon mesh and lights; temporary lighting

£ 731,000

New lighting and pigeon mesh

- Traders were not asked what kind of lights they needed.
- 450 fluorescent tubes were replaced with 99 LED lights, 41 inadequate spotlights. The new LED lights were not placed directly over stalls. There is not enough direct light for stalls, no lights at stall level. Traders using their own extra lights are being criticised
- The work took 6 months, ending June 2024.

- Management admitted that the new lights are not correct. They are being re-ordered and re-installed but after 16 months this new work has not started.
- Pigeons still enter through the netting.

£ 1,078,017 Canopies at market entrance

- One million, seventy-eight thousand pounds for two simple structures without walls.
- The traders and public were not alerted to the planning application so could not comment on the design, eg the fact that there is no glass in the canopy roofs.
- Work took nine months, which badly affected trade, with front of the market closed off.

£ 449,669 Green Street Workspace

- A building above the Compound was designed, a planning application submitted. According to GLA (Jamie Lynch) *'the bids were significantly over the available budget'*. Nothing has been built, yet over 17% of the project budget has been spent.
- £700,000 of the £2,526,600 budget was given in March 2024 to Stratford Village market in a special arrangement outside of the Grant agreement to reinstate stallholders, after the private owner (Stratford Market Properties Ltd / Group Géraud) closed their market in January 2024 without warning.
- The remaining money for this project was moved to the Creative Wellbeing Space.

£ 306,054 Creative Wellbeing Space

Rooms planned on the ground floor of Hamara Ghar. It was stripped out but as of November 2024 no refurbishment had taken place and the space was used for a builders site office. How has this much money been spent?

£ 460,296 Queen's Square

This project has been completed.

£ 54,668 Green Street Air Quality

People do not know what this project is, or what the money is being spent on.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY NEWHAM COUNCIL from Freedom of Information requests:

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/good_growth_fund_spending_to_dat?nocache=incoming-2548127#incoming-2548127

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/detailed_spending_on_good_growth/response/2772185/attach/2/FOI%20Response%20REF.33992569.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

Friends of Queen's Market November 2024, updated November 2025
friendsofqueensmarket.org.uk