

Dulwich Community Council

Wednesday 9 October 2013

7.00 pm

St Barnabas Church (The Community Suite) 40 Calton Avenue, London
SE21 7DG

Supplemental Agenda No.2

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Date: 8 October 2013

Item No. 17.	Classification Open	Date: 9 October 2013	Meeting Name: Dulwich Community Council
Report title:		Cleaner Greener Safer Revenue Fund 2013/14	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		East Dulwich ward	
From:		Head of Community Engagement	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Dulwich community council approves a further £1,350 of cleaner greener safer revenue funding from an unallocated amount of £18,022 towards removing a redundant metal post on Barry Road to comply with the removal of unnecessary street furniture, and repairs/replacement of damaged wooden posts on Friern Road at the junction of Lordship Lane.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A Cleaner, Greener, Safer revenue fund consisting of £210,000 across the borough, with an allocation of £10,000 per ward, was introduced as part of the budget strategy agreed at the council assembly meeting on the 29 February 2012. At the council assembly meeting which took place on the 27 February 2013, it was agreed to allocate an additional £10,000 per ward making a total revenue fund available of £420,000 across the borough allocated at £20,000 per ward.
3. The aim of this fund is to give community councils decision making powers over significant amounts of revenue funding that they can allocate to meet locally determined priorities. It is anticipated that the availability of the revenue fund will enhance and complement the effectiveness of the capital fund.
4. On 1 March 2012 the Leader of the Council delegated the executive function to each community council to take the cleaner, greener, safer revenue funding decisions in their areas.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The community councils will use the criteria set out below for the allocation of this funding.
 - a. Proposals that make an improvement to an area on the basis of making it cleaner, greener or safer or a combination.
 - b. CGS applications from the capital round which were ruled out because they were revenue applications.
 - c. The revenue fund could be used to meet the revenue costs associated with a CGS capital award.

- d. A community council may choose to allocate some or all of their revenue resources to their CGS capital allocations.
 - e. Subject to the availability of resources, the revenue fund may be used to buy services from the council.
6. While the allocation is based on £20,000 per ward, a community council can, if it chooses, decide to aggregate all or part of the funding and spend more than £20,000 per ward.
 7. Community councils will be free to indicate whether they would like expenditure to be an ongoing commitment over more than one financial year or spending over a fixed timescale for a one-off project. Commitments will be subject to final agreement of the council budget and a decision by each community council on an annual basis.
 8. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.
 9. From a total ward budget of £21,206 comprising of £20,000 for 2013/14 plus £1,206 carried forward from 2012/13, East Dulwich ward members' have already awarded £2,256 at the Dulwich community council meeting on 22 April 2013 followed by an additional award of £928 for additional hanging baskets and brackets on Lordship Lane in June 2013. There remains £18,022 unallocated for East Dulwich ward. Members' have proposed to use £1,350 from this unallocated amount to remove and replace damaged wooden posts at Friern Road and the removal of a redundant metal post on Barry Road. Members requested that this proposal of works in their ward be considered at the next scheduled meeting. There are no groups/projects that applied in the first round of applications that were not able to receive funding due to lack of monies and therefore there are no other applications that can be re-considered at this stage as part of the under spend.
 10. Both projects have been identified for some time as needing attention. Members' have requested that the metal post be removed since 2007 as it was never fitted with a sign when it was installed. Damage to the wooden posts was raised by local ward councillors in June 2013. Asset management have advised that to remove the metal post on Barry Road and repair the pavement will cost £150, and the costs for repairing the wooden posts along Friern Road has been identified as £1,200.

Delivery

11. Once the community council has made their selections by the method of their choice they will be designed and delivered as soon as possible in 2013/14. Any under spends or projected overspends will be reported back to community council for resolution or reallocation.

Community Impact Statement

12. The roles and functions of community councils include the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process. Community councils take decisions on local matters including environmental improvement and community safety as well as consultation on a wide range of policies and strategies that affect the area.

13. An explicit objective within community councils is that they be used to actively engage as widely as possible with, and bring together, Southwark's diverse local communities on issues of shared or mutual interest. The cleaner greener safer programme is an important tool in achieving community participation.
14. In fulfilling the above objectives that community councils have of bringing together and involving Southwark's diverse local communities, consideration has also been given to the council's duty under The Equality Act 2010 which requires the council to have due regard when taking decisions to the need to:
 - a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct;
 - b. Advance of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it
 - c. Foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it.
15. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
16. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity is further defined in S.149 as having due regard to the need of:
 - a. Remove or minimise disadvantages connected with a relevant protected characteristic
 - b. Take steps to meet the different needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic
 - c. Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under- represented

Resource implications

17. The total cost of the CGS Revenue Fund is part of the Budget process for 2013/14 agreed by Council Assembly. Any costs incurred in implementing this fund will be met within existing resources.

Policy implications

18. The CGS Revenue Fund is fully aligned with the Council's policies toward sustainability, regeneration and community engagement.

Consultation

19. Decisions will reflect longstanding ward priorities and may be complementary to the decisions made in the CGS Capital fund allocation. In this first year of the scheme consultation took place at the community council meetings and is therefore now an integral part of the decision making process.

Legal Implications

20. The Local Government Act 2000 [as amended] ('the Act') gives the leader the power to delegate any executive function to whoever lawfully can undertake the function. The allocation of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer revenue fund (CGS) is an executive function.

21. Community councils are 'area committees' within the meaning of the Act and executive functions can be delegated to them by the leader.
22. In allocating funding under the CGS community councils must have regard to the council's equality duties set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The report author has demonstrated how those duties have been considered in the body of the report at paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 in the Community Impact Statement.

Reason for lateness

23. Due to internal consultation required for this report, it did not reach the constitutional team before the agenda dispatch date.

Reason for urgency

24. The wooden posts serve to cordon off a small green area of land and with some of the posts damaged; the green is no longer protected. As a result there is an increased risk of damage to the green and potential for congregation of people on the green leading to anti social behaviour. The wooden posts in their current state are also having a negative impact on the local area. The council is keen to resolve this as soon as possible in order to minimise the risk of further damage / anti social behaviour.
25. The next Dulwich community council is not scheduled to meet until December 2013; any action to be taken to resolve this issue will be delayed until then if the decision is not taken at the October community council meeting.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cleaner Greener Safer Revenue IDM Report	160 Tooley Street	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540
Budget Proposals 2013/14	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s35022/Report%20Policy%20and%20Resources%20Strategy%20201314%20-%20201516.pdf	
Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13-2014/15 - Revenue budget	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=22918	
Dulwich Community Council meeting minutes – 22/4/2013	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=28256	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Councils Coordinator	
Report Author	Fitzroy Lewis, Community Council Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	7 October 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	7 October 2013	