

Item No. 7	Classification: Open	Date: 12 March 2024	Meeting Name: East Central Multi Ward Forum
Report title:		Cleaner Greener Safer 2024-25: Capital Funding Allocation (East Central)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Nunhead & Queens Road, Peckham, Peckham Rye, Rye Lane, Old Kent Road	
From:		Head of Highways	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the East Central Multi Ward Forum:

1. Approves the reallocation of £154 being underspent funds carried forward from previous years underspend, current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations to the Funded Projects;
2. Approves the allocation of funds of £298,000 for the 2024-25 Cleaner Greener Safer (“CGS”) programme from the programmed capital expenditure over the ten year period 2019-20 to 2028-29 to the list of applications set out in Appendix 1 within the East Central Multi Ward (“Funded Projects”);
3. Notes the total available funds for allocation by the East Central Multi Ward Forum in the 2024-25 financial year is £298,154.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. The East Central multi ward forum has the authority to approve the allocation of funds for the CGS programme to projects within the East Central multi ward area using the resources and criteria identified by Cabinet, pursuant to Part 3H of the council’s constitution.
5. The East Central multi ward area is made up of the Nunhead and Queens Road ward, the Peckham ward, the Peckham Rye ward, the Rye Lane ward, and the Old Kent Road ward.
6. The council’s CGS programme funds project ideas from local organisations and individuals who live or work in Southwark, which improve their local area and has been running since 2003.
7. Funding is allocated to multi-ward areas based on a per councillor calculation.

8. In 2019, the total programmed capital expenditure over the ten year period 2019-20 to 2028-29 was updated leading to a capital budget variation of £9.4m (£1.88m per annum) and this was approved at the Cabinet meeting on 17 September 2019. The CGS programme allocates £1.88 million every year for capital projects within the borough so this amount is available for allocation in the 2024-25 financial year.
9. Funding for the CGS programme can only be spent on capital improvements, which means permanent, physical changes and projects. Examples of the types of projects that have been funded include:
 - Parks, community gardens, landscaping, tree planting and wildlife areas
 - Children’s playgrounds, youth facilities, ball courts and cycle tracks;
 - Lighting, security measures, pavements, streets, and tackling ‘grot spots;’ and
 - Grants to local groups to self-deliver projects.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

10. There is £298,000 available for the 2024-25 CGS programme for new projects in the East Central Multi Ward Forum area.
11. There is £154 in additional funding from previous years underspend, current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations.
12. Eligible proposals must bring about a permanent improvement and make an area cleaner, greener or safer. Proposals with revenue costs, including salaries, costs for events, festivals, workshops or other one-off events are not eligible for CGS programme funding. CCTV proposals and internal improvements to housing, property and works on schools where there is no access to the public are also not eligible. Works on private property are not eligible unless there is a long-term guarantee of public access or a demonstrable public benefit.
13. The application form for CGS programme funding invited expressions of interest for the applicants to deliver projects themselves. Officers have undertaken a due diligence exercise to ensure that this is both practical and realistic as part of the feasibility process. In cases where the applicant is to deliver the project, the council will give the funding allocation to the applicant in the form of a capital grant, with appropriate conditions attached.

Policy framework implications

14. The CGS programme is fully aligned with the council’s policies around sustainability, regeneration and community engagement as detailed in “Fairer Greener Safer – Southwark Council Delivery Plan 2022-2026 and the Streets for People Strategy 2023-2030 which further outlines the

council's ongoing commitment to, and ambition for, healthier neighbourhoods, cleaner air, thriving town centres and safer roads.

15. Specific examples where the projects funded through the CGS programme support the commitments made by the Delivery Plan and Streets for People Strategy include the provision of new and improved playgrounds, increasing the number of secure cycle parking spaces, creating new and improving existing green spaces, improving estate lighting and providing access to food growing and gardening opportunities.
16. The CGS programme also enables community engagement as part of the application process including pitching meetings where applicants are able to advise why their proposal should be considered.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

17. The roles and functions of the multi ward forums include the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process to take decisions about local matters. The application process supports this because the local community is able to propose project ideas to be funded by the CGS programme.
18. An explicit objective within multi ward forums is that they are 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 CGS programme is an important tool in achieving community participation.
19. The programme is promoted widely across the borough to as many residents and community groups as possible using the council's main marketing team and via other teams across the council including Resident Services, Community Engagement and Parks and Leisure services.
20. We also try to use external resources such as Community Southwark to increase the outreach of the programme across the borough.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

21. The Public Sector Equality Duty ("PSED") is set out at section 149 of Equality Act 2010 and requires the council to have due regard, in the exercise of its functions (including decision making), 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 characteristics 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.

22. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.
23. Ideas for CGS projects come from the local community, the majority via a simple project nomination form available in electronic and paper format. This simple process enables individuals and groups to nominate projects that have a direct impact on their community and meet the needs of those that make up that community.
24. Equalities data is collected at this time so that an analysis can show where applications have come from and where there are gaps which need to need addressed by specific targeted outreach.
25. Decisions on funding are agreed by ward councillors with specific consideration to the needs of individual wards, feedback from the community and with reference to the multi ward profiles created as part of Southwark's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. Funding for CGS projects is equal across all wards ensuring that the opportunity is the same for all parts of the borough.
26. At this stage, no specific projects have been funded so the allocation of funds for the CGS Programme is not considered to have any adverse effects, including socio-economic or health impacts, on those with protected characteristics. Officers will consider the equalities impacts and the council's PSED for each of the Funded Projects as they progress through the detailed design and decision-making stages.
27. Officers will also look at the range of areas where grants are allocated, gather information for analysis where possible and look at how we can improve allocation in relation to specific needs across the borough.
28. A process of continuous improvement is in place to ensure that we improve data collection and analysis in the future and use this to reach groups identified as missing or hard to reach.

Health impact statement

29. There are no direct health implications as a result of the allocation of funds for the CGS programme. However, the following health benefits are expected from the Funded Projects based on the types of projects normally funded via the CGS programme.
30. An increase in community assets in the public realm – providing more places for people to spend time in their local community. This has the potential to have a positive impact on social and mental wellbeing, by creating connected and cohesive communities.

31. Increased ownership over community public realm – this helps people within the community join together around a project, supporting connected and cohesive communities.
32. Project examples such as parks, community gardens, landscaping, tree planting and wildlife areas may have the following impacts:
 - a. Improve mental wellbeing by increasing access to the outdoors and nature
 - b. Improved access to affordable healthy food, supporting people to be more food insecure
 - c. Tree planting and green spaces may help to reduce or disperse air pollution, supporting people's physical health.
33. Projects such as children's playgrounds, youth facilities, ball courts and cycle tracks, encourage physical activity that has a huge number of health benefits including supporting people to achieve a healthy weight.
34. Projects such as lighting, security measures, pavements, streets, and tackling 'grot spots' support community safety.

Climate change implications

35. The allocation of funds for the CGS programme does not have any direct climate change implications. However, the Funded Projects will support the council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 and aligns with the programme of work set out within the Climate Strategy and Action Plan, namely through priorities One, Two, Three and Five – Greener Buildings, Active and Sustainable Travel, Thriving Natural Environment and Renewable Energy.
36. By allocating the funds to the Funded Projects, the council is investing in community led projects that reduce carbon and promote biodiversity. For example, the development of community gardens, wildlife areas and additional tree planting all aid in the protection of local flora, fauna and wildlife.
37. Additionally, the projects involving lighting upgrades will look to improve energy efficiency and the development of cycle tracks through this scheme help residents' transition towards active travel, reducing the reliance on motor vehicles.
38. These types of projects are common across all multi ward forum areas.
39. With all CGS spending decisions, potential carbon impact is into account as part of the allocation process and where possible, officers will attempt to monitor and evaluate potential carbon emissions from individual schemes.

Resource implications

40. There are no additional staffing implications, as provision is made from the Highways Division to deliver the recommendations included in this report.

Financial implications

41. All professional fees related to the project are also treated as the capital costs of the project. Where projects are awarded as a grant to organisations, the award amount announced at multi ward forum includes professional fees. The multi ward forum award notification to grant recipients details the grant amount only, excluding these fees.
42. CGS projects must be completed within two years of award of funding. Projects that are unlikely to be completed within two years will be reported to the relevant multi ward forum and available budgets may be reallocated to other projects. Revenue costs not covered by maintenance or the contractual liability period will fall upon the asset owner. The department will be notified of the likely costs before the schemes proceeds, in order to secure permission to implement the scheme.
43. After the defects and liability period, or three year maintenance period in the case of planting works, all future maintenance is assumed by the asset owner, for example Housing, Parks, Highways, or in some cases external asset owners. Therefore, there are no revenue implications to the Highways division as a result of approving the proposed allocation.
44. The total expenditure and sources of funding for the scheme will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall capital programme.
45. Value for money will be ensured when the contract is procured by following the council's contract standing orders.

Legal implications

46. Not applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance (AGG 20/02/24)

47. The East Central Multi-Ward Forum is asked to approve the allocation of £298,154 for the 2024-25 CGS programme and previous years underspend to the Funded Projects within the East Central multi-ward area as recommended by officers in paragraphs 1 to 3 of this report. The East Central multi-ward forum has the authority to make this decision in accordance with paragraph 2, Part 3H of the council's constitution.

48. Officers have considered the council's PSED under section 149 of the 2010 Act at paragraphs 21 to 28 of this report and have concluded that, at this stage, the allocation of funds for the 2024-25 CGS programme including previous years underspend is not considered to have any adverse impacts on persons with protected characteristics.
49. The Human Rights Act 1998 imposes a duty on the council as a public authority to apply the European Convention on Human Rights; as a result the council must not act in a way which is incompatible with these rights. The relevant rights for highway and traffic purposes are Article 8 (respect for homes); and Article 1 of the First Protocol (peaceful enjoyment of property). The allocation of funds for the 2024-25 CGS programme including previous years underspend is not anticipated to engage or breach the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
50. Council Assembly on 14 July 2021 approved a change to the council's constitution to confirm that all decisions made by the council will consider the climate and equality (including socio-economic disadvantage and health inequality) consequences of taking that decision. This has been considered at paragraphs 35 to 39 above.

Strategic Director of Finance (CAP23/078)

51. This report seeks the approval of the East Central Multi Ward area for the allocation of funds (£298,000 + £154 reallocated) for the 2024-25 Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) programme in the East Central Multi Ward Area from the list of applications set out in Appendix 1.
52. The strategic director of finance notes the resource implications in the report and that the proposed allocations will be contained within the CGS element of the council's capital programme.
53. It is also noted that officers' time and any other costs connected with this recommendation will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
The Cleaner, Greener, Safer Capital Programme	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955
https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/Data/Executive/20030520/Agenda/Item%20267%20-%20The%20Cleaner,%20Greener,%20Safer%20Capital%20Programme.pdf		
IDM report – 20 December 2018 Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport Management and Air Quality	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50018979&Opt=0		
Cabinet Meeting Minutes 17 September 2019	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g6415/Agenda%20frontsheet%20Tuesday%2017-Sep-2019%2016.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=0		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	All East Central Multi-Ward CGS Applications 2024-25

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Dale Foden, Head of Highways	
Report Author	Craig Dove, Senior Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	20 February 2024	
Key Decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	26 February 2024	