

Item No. 11.	Classification: Open	Date: 12 July 2012	Meeting Name: Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council
Report title:		Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2012/13	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Grange, Riverside, Rotherhithe, Surrey Docks, South Bermondsey, and Livesey Wards	
From:		Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	

RECOMMENDATION

1. For the Community Council to agree £31,971.50 Bermondsey & Rotherhithe community council funding.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Community Council Fund provides revenue grants of between £100 and £1,000 for community projects. Applications are considered by the borough's five community councils, which have a total of £122,000, for projects that will benefit the community.
3. The Community Council Fund was first launched in 2004. It is intended to encourage small and 'hard to reach' groups to organise activities and events which would benefit their community. It is designed to promote the work of community councils and provide opportunities to engage with some marginalised communities. Over the years the scheme has become very popular amongst local communities with more than 250 applications being received on average in a typical round. The fund is targeted to build and improve community cohesion by creating opportunities for bringing different communities together in local activities.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Community impact statement

4. The allocation of the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund will, in the main, affect the people living in the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council area. However, in making the area a better place to live and improving life chances for local people, the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund activities will have an impact on the whole of Southwark.
5. The Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund aims to increase community participation and activity within the area and provide such groups with the support that they would have not been able to access otherwise.

Resource implications

6. The budget for the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund is £31,971.50 to be spent by the 31 March 2013.

Legal/Financial implications

7. The Localism Act 2011 gives councils a general power of competence whereby they have power to do anything that individuals generally may do. This power can be used even if legislation already exists that allows a local authority to do the same thing. However, the general power of competence does not enable a local authority to do anything which it was restricted or prevented from doing under that previous legislation.
8. The Council can under the Act to provide funding to voluntary organisations but in exercising this power regard must be had to the Council's sustainable community strategy. These grants, from the community fund, are from revenue budgets.
9. The power to allocate community council funds by the community council is set out in part 3H of the constitution. The money can be granted to community projects ranging from cultural celebrations to providing equipment for local sports teams.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund Applications 2012/13
Appendix 2	Community Council Fund Information Sheet 2012/13

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Neighbourhoods Coordinator	
Report Author	Gill Kelly, Community Councils Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 June 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	18 June 2012	