

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

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council allocates £55,000 of the Cleaner, Greener, Safer (CGS) revenue fund 2012/13. The projects to be considered for allocation are set out in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A Cleaner, Greener, Safer revenue fund 2012/13 consisting of £210,000 across the borough, with an allocation of £10,000 per ward, has been introduced as part of the budget strategy agreed at the council assembly meeting on the 29 February 2012.
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.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

4. 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.

5. While the allocation is based on £10,000 per ward a Community Council can if it chooses decide to aggregate all or part of the funding and spend more than £10,000 per ward.
6. 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.
7. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.

Delivery

8. 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 2012/13. Any under spends or projected overspends will be reported back to Community Council for resolution or reallocation.

Community Impact Statement

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.

Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

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:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages connected with a relevant protected characteristic

- Take steps to meet the different needs of persons who have relevant protected characteristic
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under-represented

Resource implications

12. The total cost of the CGS Revenue Fund is part of the Budget process for 2012/13 agreed by Council Assembly. Any costs incurred in implementing this fund will be met within existing resources.

Policy implications

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

Consultation

14. 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 will take place at the Community Council meetings and will therefore be an integral part of the decision making process. In future years consultation will be a key part of developing and identifying projects for funding and considering whether to proceed with indicative expenditure.

Legal Implications

15. 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.

16. Community councils are 'area committees' within the meaning of the Act and executive functions can be delegated to them by the leader.

17. In allocating funding under the CGS Revenue Fund 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 in the Community Impact Statement.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council CGS Revenue Fund 2012-2013 projects for consideration

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Report Author	Darryl Telles, Neighbourhoods Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 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	14 June 2012	