

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 20 June 2012	Decision taker: Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Report title:		Award of Community Restoration Fund – supporting young people	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the allocations of the 'supporting young people' element of the Community Restoration Fund, as set out in the body of the report, be approved.
2. That the Strategic Director of Children's Services monitor progress.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. On 13 December 2011, cabinet agreed in principle to establish a £1m Community Restoration Fund for 2012/13. This one-off fund seeks to restore local community pride following the disturbances last August, and deliver longer-term solutions to support business and young people in Southwark. The fund is targeted to those areas and communities most affected by the disturbances.
4. On 7 February 2012, cabinet agreed the establishment of the fund, including its sub-division across two areas of focus – supporting young people, and supporting local business – subject to Council Assembly agreeing the Council's revenue budget on 29 February 2012.
5. On 29 February 2012, Council Assembly agreed the Council's revenue budget for 2012/13, which formally established the Community Restoration Fund.
6. This report describes recommendations to distribute the former focus – projects to support young people, representing £500,000.
7. The objectives of the youth element of the fund are to:
 - a) Invest in increased positive opportunities for young people with the aim of giving young people more things to do
 - b) Provide opportunities which prevent or intervene to divert those small numbers of young people who are at risk of making poor life choices, including criminal activity, and support a pathway to positive activities within the community
8. It is intended that funding will be distributed in time for activities to take place over the summer.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. It is recommended that funding is allocated to five distinct projects, totalling £497,200:
10. Community-led grants fund: A total of £100,000 will be allocated across the

borough's five community council areas to support local grants pots, into which community and voluntary organisations can bid. It will be distributed equally for each ward. A combined panel consisting of community council and youth community council members will come together to make recommendations on the bids received. The formal decision as to the award of the grant funding will be made by the cabinet member for Children's Services. These panels will be facilitated by a youth worker, to ensure broad community support for the successful projects.

11. Ap centre: Start-up funding of £85,000 will be allocated to establish an 'ap centre', where young people are supported to develop smartphone aps, ideally with a social purpose. The project will provide a platform for developing young people's employability and personal skills, with the ap made available through the iTunes' store. It is proposed that the centre is located in existing facilities, and will include an open-access internet cafe where staff engage young people around employment and skills issues. It is intended that the ap centre forms one part of an integrated offer around supporting new technologies start-ups (see next project below), and will link with the IT support on offer through the city learning centre. Additional funding from existing budgets and corporate sponsorship will be sought to secure the financial sustainability of the project.
12. Business start-up: Allied to the ap centre, £70,000 is recommended to be granted to London Youth Support Trust to fund bursaries up to the value of £5,000 to support business start-ups. The project will be modelled on a 'Dragon's Den' style approach to involve local business mentors.
13. Pop-up youth projects: A total of £62,200 will be allocated to establish three temporary youth provisions, which will each run for around six weeks in an empty shop or premises. Officers are liaising with property colleagues to ascertain suitable locations, with a focus on the areas affected by the disturbances last summer.
14. Youth buses: A total of £180,000 will be used to purchase three youth buses and one specialist mobile recording studio. The youth buses will provide a broad range of youth work in areas with little or no existing provision. They will be well resourced, with up-to-date vehicles, and will work alongside other support including Community Games and mobile advice centres. The mobile recording studio will deliver music projects to young people who find it hard to access this type of provision and which can be delivered in their locality. These vehicles would also act as a legacy of the fund.

Policy implications

15. The recommendations in the report are fully consistent with the council's vision A Fairer Future for All, and its priorities, as set out in strategic documents including the Council Plan, and Children and Young People's Plan.

Community impact statement

16. In developing these recommendations, consideration was given to the public sector duty, as it relates to s149 of the Equality Act 2010. This 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

17. The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. The duty also applies to marriage and civil partnership, but only in relation to (a) above.
18. These duties were actively considered during the establishment of the fund and selection of the projects recommended in this report. The fund's objectives, as set out in paragraph 7 above and the report 'Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13 to 2014/15 – Revenue Budget' paragraphs 145 to 171, which was approved by Cabinet on 7 February 2012 and Council Assembly on 29 February 2012, seek to support activities, projects and programmes that help to deliver longer-term solutions to support the wider community. The fund's objectives were developed in consultation with local stakeholders.
19. The development of the recommended projects included consideration of the profile of local young people, their participation in local youth activities and their characteristics such as gender, ethnicity and age. A key thread running through all recommended projects is the engagement of vulnerable young people in universal activities, for example those at greater risk of being not in education, employment or training, or participating in criminal activity, because national research and policy guidance highlight the potential to improve outcomes for vulnerable groups through the use of universal provision to engage them.
20. The recommended projects actively seek to support improved understanding and relations between different sections of the community, or to advance equality of opportunities to groups who currently may not have access to the activities on offer. All projects will be open to all young people in the borough to access, regardless of their characteristics, which is consistent with the council's equality duty.
21. All recommended projects, and their underlying rationale, were considered and approved by the Community Restoration Fund Advisory Board. Take-up will be monitored in accordance with the council's equality duty, and further equalities impact analysis will be included in subsequent decisions giving effect to the projects recommended above.
22. It is noted that those who took part in the disturbances last August represent a tiny minority of adults and young people in the borough, and do not represent the vast majority of young people using council services or who the fund is intended to support.

Resource implications

23. The five projects are allocated funding as set out below.

Project	Amount awarded
Community-led grants	£100,800
Ap centre	£86,000
Business start-up bursaries	£70,000
Pop-up youth projects	£63,200
Youth buses	£180,000
Total	£500,000

24. At Council Assembly on 29 February 2012 the establishment of the £1m Community Restoration fund was agreed as part of the Council's revenue budget for 2012/13. These projects, which have been considered by the Community Restoration Fund Advisory Board, are to be funded from this budget.

Consultation

25. The Southwark Youth Council has been involved in developing these proposals, and will be involved in implementing council-run projects, such as developing activities in the pop-up youth provisions or youth buses.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

26. 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.
27. This general power of competence includes the power to:
- (a) incur expenditure;
 - (b) give financial assistance to any person;
 - (c) enter into arrangements or agreements with any person;
 - (d) co-operate with, or facilitate or co-ordinate the activities of any person;
 - (e) exercise on behalf of any person any functions of that person; and
 - (f) provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to any person.
28. The provision of funding under the Community Restoration Fund falls within the scope of the kind of activities the council can undertake under the general power of competence as this includes a power to give financial assistance to any person.
29. The decision to allocate these funds under the Community Restoration Scheme by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services accords with part 3D of the Constitution.

Finance Director

30. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 above.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13 to 2014/15 – Revenue Budget report	http://moderngov.southwarksites.com/mqConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=26249	Constitutional team

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Romi Bowen, Strategic Director of Children’s Services		
Report Author	Pat Shelley, Head of Youth Services, Children’s Services		
Version	Final		
Dated	20 June 2012		
Key Decision?	Yes		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included	
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes	
Finance Director	Yes	Yes	
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes	
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		20 June 2012	