

Item No. 10.2	Classification Open	Date: 2 July 2012	Meeting Name: Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council
Report title:		Cleaner Greener Safer Revenue Fund 2012/13	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Cathedrals, Chaucer, East Walworth, Faraday and Newington Wards	
From:		Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council nominates the signatories for the bank account for the Cleaner, Greener, and Safer (CGS) revenue fund 2012/13. The proposed signatories are: the Chair, Vice Chair and one other Member.

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. In March 2012 the Leader approved a delegation of power to community councils to allow them to make decisions on cleaner, greener, safer revenue (CGS) funding. As part of this it was agreed that bank accounts would be set up for each community council to enable spending decisions to be effected at a local level with maximum flexibility, while maintaining appropriate checks and controls, see best practice guide for use of the CGS Revenue Local Bank Accounts attached at appendix 1
4. 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.

Community Impact Statement

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 that need to: Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity is further defined in s.149 as having due regard to the need to

- 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 to participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under-represented. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

Resource implications

8. 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

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

Consultation

10. 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

11. The council's rules for the operation of local bank accounts state among other things that the Finance Director's approval is required of arrangements for making deposits and withdrawals from local bank accounts. There must be at least two signatories for all transactions and the conditions applying must be fully documented. Bank mandates must be signed by the authorised officers and a copy passed to the finance director, details of which should be kept on file for audit purposes.
12. Once the community council has agreed its nominations these details will be passed to the Finance Director for validation and action.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Best Practice Guide for use of the CGS Revenue Local Bank Accounts

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Report Author	Pauline Bonner, Neighbourhoods Coordinator	
Version	Final	
Dated	20 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	20 June 2012	