

<b>Item No.</b> 14.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 10 October 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council
<b>Report title:</b>		Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2012/13 (Under spend)	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		Surrey Docks	
<b>From:</b>		Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the under spend of £1345.50 from the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2012-13 be allocated as follows:
  - An award of £672.75 to be reallocated to the Surrey Docks Farm towards the cost of a Harvest Festival event
  - An award of £672.75 to be reallocated to Stave Hill Ecology Park towards the cost of a wood chipper

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The under spend has come about as the result of the low number of applications received for the Surrey Docks ward in the opening round. The above awards are being recommended by members of the Surrey Docks ward.
3. 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.
4. 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.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Community impact statement

5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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 community council fund is an important tool in achieving community participation.
9. 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.
10. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
11. 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 share a 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 budget for the Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund is £31,971.50 and to be spent by 31 March 2013.

### **Legal implications**

13. 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.

14. This general power of competence would include 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.
15. The provision of funding under the CCF 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.
16. 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.
17. In allocating funding under the CCF 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 [9,10,11].

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2012/13	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH  <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s29720/Report%20Bermondsey%20Rotherhithe%20Community%20Council%20Fund%20201213.pdf">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s29720/Report%20Bermondsey%20Rotherhithe%20Community%20Council%20Fund%20201213.pdf</a>	Forid Ahmed 020 7525 5540

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Community Council Fund Information Sheet 2012/13

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Forid Ahmed, Neighbourhoods Coordinator	
<b>Report Author</b>	Gill Kelly, Community Council Development Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	1 October 2012	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	1 October 2012	