

Item No. 13.	Classification: Open	Date: 12 March 2013	Meeting Name: Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council
Report title:		Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2013	
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 approve the allocation of £31,975 community council funding from applications listed in Appendix 1.

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. 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 and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund will, in the main, affect the people living in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council area. However, in making the area a better place to live and improving life chances for local people, the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund activities will have an impact on the whole of Southwark.
5. The Bermondsey and 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.
6. 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.

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. In this process there are no issues that contravene the Equality Act 2010.
10. 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

Due consideration was given to equalities impact assessment during the design of this awards process and no adverse impact was evident.

Resource implications

11. The total budget for the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund is £31,975 to be spent by 31 March 2014.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Legal Services

12. 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.

13. 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.
14. 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.
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. 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 [8, 9, 10].

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None.		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund Applications List 2013

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Council Coordinator	
Report Author	Gill Kelly Community Council Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 March 2013	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director Housing and Community Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		1 March 2013