

Item No:	Classification: Open	Date: 19/06/2012	Meeting name: Cabinet
Report title:		Resident involvement and resident association recognition and grants	
Ward(s) or group(s) affected:		All	
From:		Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the application process for grants and recognition be made less complicated, less bureaucratic and more accessible.
2. That officers create an online application process to complement the paper based process, so that tenants' and residents' associations (TRAs) have options for making applications. This to be completed within six months.
3. That there be an emphasis on support for TRAs to make funding applications over the next few months, rather than on recognition, in order to clear the backlog of applications and enable organisations to receive funds.
4. That it be obligatory for a Resident Involvement Officer to attend every TRA AGM, and that officers use this occasion to assist TRAs in their applications for recognition and funding.
5. That TRAs create a standing item at every AGM covering the administration needed to complete the recognition and funding application process.
6. That the Resident Involvement Team be asked to consider how to work with ward councillors to support TRAs.
7. That a report on resident engagement be sent to the Housing Commission, Southwark Tenants' Council and Southwark Homeowners' Council.
8. That officers be asked to return to overview & scrutiny committee in six months' time to report on progress on the above recommendations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

9. At its meeting on 8 May 2012 the overview & scrutiny committee received a briefing note from the strategic director of housing in respect of resident involvement and resident association recognition and grants. The briefing note is attached as an appendix.
10. In addition to considering the briefing note, the committee received oral evidence from a number of TRA representatives.
11. The committee asked officers to circulate all members with additional information on:

- the number of TRAs who made applications in 2009/10
 - officers' contact with all TRAs, in order to assist with the recognition and grant application process
 - TRAs who have not made an application for funding and recognition, in order to assist ward councilors with supporting local TRAs to complete an application, where appropriate.
12. The committee also asked officers to provide Councillor David Noakes with additional information on the status and activity of all TRAs in his ward in order to assist with support.
13. The recommendations of the committee are set out above.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held at	Contact
Report to Overview & Scrutiny Committee 8 May 2012	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2TZ	Peter Roberts Constitutional Team 020 7525 4350

Audit Trail

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author	Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	May 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
-	-	-