

<b>Item No.</b> 17.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 2 October 2013	<b>Decision Maker:</b> Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council
<b>Report title:</b>		Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2013-14 Reallocation	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		Rotherhithe	
<b>From:</b>		Head of Community Engagement	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2013 - 14 under spend of £1,000 be reallocated as follows:
  - £1,000 to be awarded to Millpond Chess Club to put on Grand Master Chess tournament at Canada Water Library and promote chess to children and the wider community.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A decision needs to be taken at the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council October 2013 meeting to enable the club to arrange and carry out their activity before the year end.
3. The under spend has come about due to BOSCO centre requesting their application for funding, to run summer activities, for which £1000 was allocated at Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community council at 26 June 2013 meeting, to be withdrawn.
4. The Millpond Chess Club had applied for more funding than they were awarded initially, and were unable to deliver the event on the awarded amount.
5. Chair and Ward Councillors have been consulted and have no objection to the fund reallocation as described.
6. 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.
7. 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. Over the years the scheme has become very popular amongst local communities with more than 250 applications being received on average in a typical round. 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**

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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**

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

15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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 10, 11 and 12.
20. The Council can under the Act to provide funding to voluntary organisations, but in exercising this power regard must be had to the Council's sustainable community strategy. These grants, from the community fund, are from revenue budgets.
21. 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.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2013/14	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH  <a href="http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s36137/BRCC%20Report%20Community%20Council%20Fund%202013.pdf">http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s36137/BRCC%20Report%20Community%20Council%20Fund%202013.pdf</a>	Forid Ahmed 020 7525 5540

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Community Council Fund Information Sheet 2013/14

## 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>	23 September 2013	
<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>	23 September 2013	