

<b>Item No.</b> 16.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 4 December 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council
<b>Report title:</b>		Reallocation of funds from Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2012/13	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		Grange	
<b>From:</b>		Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	

## **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the sum of £500 allocated to the Neckinger local history walk from the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council Fund 2012-13 be reallocated to Stephen Humphrey towards the cost of a history walk event.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. At its meeting on 12 July 2012, the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council approved the allocation of the 2012/13 Community Council Fund. Among the allocations was an award of £500 to Grange Road Management (Bermondsey) Ltd ("Grange Road Management") to fund a Neckinger walk, a local history walk, to coincide with the unveiling of an interpretive board.
3. Although the funding for the walk was allocated, Grange Road Management was unable to deliver the intended project, owing to the ill health of council archaeologist, and the resulting serious delay in the board installation. Grange Road Management is no longer in a position to organise the history walk and has returned the award (£500 less £20 for bankers draft).
4. As the history walk was a popular project, it is proposed that the returned money be spent on a similar event, led by local historian and archivist Stephen Humphrey, to take place before end March 2014.
5. 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.
6. 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**

7. The event is a replacement of the same quality and benefit as the original project awarded and agreed, so there will be no adverse impact on the community.

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. 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
14. 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**

15. The returned money was from 2012-13 CCF budget, The cheque for £480 has been returned to us, and therefore the cost of the replacement event will be covered by that, being a variation on the original allocation.

### **Legal implications**

16. 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.
17. 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;
  - f. provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to any person.
18. The provision of funding under the Community Council Fund 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.
19. The Community Council Fund is funded by sources identified by the Cabinet, and the allocation of funds from the Community Council Fund is an executive function.
20. The decision to allocate monies from the Community Council Fund is reserved to the community council by part 3H, paragraph 15 of the council's constitution. The money can be granted to community projects ranging from cultural celebrations to providing equipment for local sports teams.
21. In allocating funding under the Community Council Fund, 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 community impact statement, above.

### **Reasons for Urgency**

22. The next meeting of the community council is not until 29 January 2014 which may delay the implementation of the local project.

## Reasons for Lateness

23. There was a delay on the day of agenda publication whilst the wording of the report was clarified.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
<a href="#">Community Council Fund 2012/13</a>	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Bermondsey & Rotherhithe Community Council Fund Applications 2012/13
Appendix 2	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>	29 November 2013	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Director of Legal Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	29 November 2013	