

Item No. 18.	Classification Open	Date: 1 February 2014	Meeting Name: Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council
Report title:		Borough, Bankside and Walworth Cleaner Greener Safer revenue fund 2014/15	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Cathedrals, Chaucer, East Walworth, Faraday and Newington	
From:		Head of Community Engagement	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council allocate the available Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) revenue budget of £100,000 to successful applicants in 2014/15. The projects to be considered for allocation are set out in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A Cleaner Greener Safer revenue fund consisting of £210,000 across the borough, with an allocation of £10,000 per ward, was introduced as part of the budget strategy agreed at the council assembly meeting on the 29 February 2012. At the council assembly meeting which took place on the 27 February 2013, it was agreed to allocate an additional £10,000 per ward making a total revenue fund of £420,000 available across the borough, allocated at £20,000 per ward.
3. The aim of this fund is to give community councils decision making powers over significant amounts of revenue funding that they can allocate to meet locally determined priorities. It is anticipated that the availability of the revenue fund will enhance and complement the effectiveness of the capital fund.
4. On 1 March 2012 the leader of the council delegated the executive function to each community council to take the Cleaner Greener Safer revenue funding decisions in their areas.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The community councils will use the criteria set out below for the allocation of this funding:
 - a. Proposals that make an improvement to an area on the basis of making it cleaner, greener or safer or a combination.
 - b. CGS applications from the capital round which were ruled out because they were revenue applications.
 - c. The revenue fund could be used to meet the revenue costs associated with a CGS capital award.

- d. A community council may choose to allocate some or all of their revenue resources to their CGS capital allocations.
 - e. Subject to the availability of resources, the revenue fund may be used to buy services from the council.
6. While the allocation is based on £20,000 per ward, a community council can, if it chooses, decide to aggregate all or part of the funding and spend more than £20,000 per ward.
 7. Community councils will be free to indicate whether they would like expenditure to be an ongoing commitment over more than one financial year or spending over a fixed timescale for a one-off project. Commitments will be subject to final agreement of the council budget and a decision by each community council on an annual basis.
 8. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.

Delivery

9. Once the community council has made their selections by the method of their choice they will be designed and delivered as soon as possible in 2014/15. Any under spends or projected overspends will be reported back to community council for resolution or reallocation.

Community impact statement

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 Cleaner Greener Safer programme 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:

- a. Remove or minimise disadvantages connected with a relevant protected characteristic
- b. Take steps to meet the different needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic
- c. Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under-represented
- d. Due consideration was given to equalities impact assessment during the design of this awards process and no adverse impact was evident.

Financial implications

15. The total amount available for the Borough, Bankside & Walworth CGS revenue fund in 2014/15 is £100,000. In addition, any underspend in 2013/14 will be carried forward into 2014/15. All allocations are subject to the approval of the 2014/15 Revenue budget by council assembly on 26 February 2014.

Policy implications

16. The CGS Revenue fund is fully aligned with the council's policies toward sustainability, regeneration and community engagement.

Consultation

17. Decisions will reflect longstanding ward priorities and may be complementary to the decisions made in the CGS Capital fund allocation. In this first year of the scheme consultation took place at the community council meetings and is therefore now an integral part of the decision making process.

Legal Implications

18. The Local Government Act 2000 [as amended] ('the Act') gives the leader the power to delegate any executive function to whoever lawfully can undertake the function. The allocation of the Cleaner Greener Safer revenue fund (CGS) is an executive function.
19. Community councils are 'area committees' within the meaning of the act and executive functions can be delegated to them by the leader.
20. In allocating funding under the CGS 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 12, 13 and 14 in the community impact statement.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic director of finance and corporate services

21. For 2013/14, the council's base budget for funding the Borough, Bankside and Walworth CGS revenue fund is £100,000. At present this is expected to remain at the same level for 2014/15. In addition, any underspend in 2013/14 will be carried forward into 2014/15. However, it must be noted that the council's 2014/15 budget setting process is not yet completed, and thus there is no guarantee that the level of

funding eventually approved will be the same as the amount shown in this report.

REASON FOR LATENESS

22. The initial report has been amended due to new information received following consultation with officers.

REASON FOR URGENCY

23. A decision is required at the February meeting to enable successful groups to commence their projects from the 1 April 2014.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cleaner Greener Safer Revenue IDM Report	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540
Budget Proposals 2013/14	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s35022/Report%20Policy%20and%20Resources%20Strategy%20201314%20-%20201516.pdf	
Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13-2014/15 - Revenue budget	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=22918	
Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council meeting minutes – 22/4/2013	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=350&MId=4314&Ver=4	

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council CGS revenue fund 2014/15 projects for consideration

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community councils coordinator	
Report Author	Pauline Bonner, Community council development officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	27 January 2014	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of legal services	Yes	Yes
Strategic director of finance and corporate services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	27 January 2014	