

Item No. 14.	Classification: Open	Date: 29 January 2014	Meeting Name: Dulwich Community Council
Report title:		Dulwich Community Council Fund 2014	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		College, East Dulwich and Village Wards	
From:		Head of Community Engagement	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Dulwich Community Council allocates the full available community council fund (CCF) budget of £17,440 to successful applicants in 2014/15. The projects to be considered for allocation are set out 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 £122,079, 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 Dulwich community council fund will, in the main, affect the people living in the Dulwich community council area. However, in making the area a better place to live and improving life chances for local people, the community council fund activities will have an impact on the whole of Southwark.
5. The 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 (Appendix 2).
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:
11. 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.

Financial implications

12. The total amount available for the Dulwich community council fund in 2014/15 is £17,440, which is to be spent by 31 March 2015. 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.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services

13. For 2013/14, the council's base budget for funding the Dulwich Community Council fund is £17,440. 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.

Director of Legal Services

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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 body of the report at paragraphs [8, 9, 10].

REASON FOR URGENCY

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

REASON FOR LATENESS

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

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Dulwich Community Council Fund 2013/14 Report, (30 January 2013)	Online: http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s34936/Report%20Community%20Council%20Fund%202013-14.pdf	Forid Ahmed 020 7525 5540

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Dulwich Community Council Fund Applications List 2014/15
Appendix 2	Community Council Fund Information Sheet 2014/15

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Council Coordinator	
Report Author	Fitzroy Lewis, 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 Housing & Community Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance & Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	27 January 2014	