

**Southwark Council: The Community Capacity and Environment & Ecology
Commissioning Programme**

Commissioning Plan 2016-17

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME

- 1 The overall objectives of the Community Capacity programme are to:
 - Provide support for Southwark's diverse communities to build a fairer Southwark where people realise their potential.
 - Build capacity within the voluntary sector to enable it to play a full and effective role in the development and delivery of the priorities and objectives of the council's plan including the Medium Term Resources Strategy 2014-15 to 2016-17.
 - Develop and sustain multi-use facilities aimed at tackling social exclusion in deprived areas and neighbourhoods.
 - Support a sustainable and effective voluntary sector which demonstrates the capacity to modernise and innovate and to work in partnership with the council to address the needs of local communities.
 - To promote volunteering and support the development of volunteer champions within local communities.

- 2 These objectives fall within the council's overall objectives and priorities as set out in the council plan:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200493/what_we_do/3156/council_plan

and medium term resources strategy:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/278/medium_term_resources_strategy

They also support the council's approach to Equalities:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/2921/southwark_councils_approach_to_equality_delivering_a_fairer_future_for_all

in relation to tackling discrimination, promoting positive community relations and giving due regard to inequalities of outcome which may result from socio-economic disadvantage.

- 3 In 2014/15 the council's Environment & Ecology grants programme was brought into the Community Capacity programme. It was previously held with the Environment & Leisure Department. The objectives of the Environment & Ecology programme are to:
 - Improve the lives of people in Southwark through opportunities to experience open spaces and the natural environment.
 - Provide services that deliver environmental education and life-long learning, social inclusion and community cohesion outcomes.
 - Support the development of the environment sector for the benefit of the people of Southwark, recognising the importance of the natural environment in regeneration and and improving the life chances of young people in the borough.

PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING THE COMMUNITY CAPACITY / ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY PROGRAMMES 2016/17

- 4 Organisations applying to either the Community Capacity programme or Environment & Ecology programmes must meet all of the general criteria.

Those applying to the Community Capacity programme should meet either priority A or priority B of the specific criteria.

Those applying to the Environment & Ecology should meet the criteria for Environment & Ecology set out below.

GENERAL CRITERIA

All organisations applying must demonstrate the following:

- Understanding of the needs and basic demographics for the particular community(ies) or area they serve
- Use of accessible premises
- The provision of services which respond to, and meet, local need and demand
- Evidence of a business plan and pricing structure
- A healthy ratio between voluntary and earned income – the grant applied for should be no more than 50% of earned income
- Evidence of seeking funding from sources other than the council.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA – COMMUNITY CAPACITY PROGRAMME

Organisations will need to show how they will meet either priority A or priority B.

Priority A: Community Engagement

The council aims to support organisations that:

- Are outward-looking and bring different communities together, through cultural, social and faith activities
- Build the confidence of communities so they are able to play a full role in civic and public life
- Enable people to take more responsibility for their own wellbeing. 'Wellbeing' is a broad concept including happiness, satisfaction with life, autonomy and sense of purpose.

Organisations applying under this priority will be expected to demonstrate how they will do **all** of the following:

- Build mutual understanding across faiths, cultures, and ethnic identities
- Tackle deprivation and improve the wellbeing of those communities
- Remove barriers, for individuals and communities, to accessing public services. This could include IT skills and access to IT facilities
- Create opportunities for people to become volunteers or active citizens and support them to do so
- Enable people from diverse communities to get their voices heard when decisions are being made
- Gather evidence of the specific needs of their communities and advocate on their behalf

- Provide advice at a general help level basic advice, information, and signposting to quality-marked advice providers
- Work with the main generalist / specialist community advice providers to ensure accurate, up to date and good quality advice is given (for example, through supervision or working towards an appropriate quality mark).

Outcomes

Organisations will be expected to demonstrate how they will achieve all of the following:

- Communities are more connected as a result of activities that bring people together
- People better able to access public services
- People feeling a sense of belonging to their local community
- Voices of people from diverse communities are included when decisions are made
- Improved wellbeing of people from marginalized communities.

These outcomes will be measured using methods which may include user surveys / feedback; levels of participation in activities; levels of attendance at public forums including community council meetings.

Please note that:

- Funding will be prioritised for those organisations working across more than one community or working to integrate a particular marginalised group within wider society
- Organisations offering immigration advice should hold OISC registration (Office of the Immigration Service Commissioner Level 1).

Priority B: Area Based Community Development

The council aims to support organisations that provide a core resource base for work that tackles social exclusion in deprived areas in Southwark. It seeks to support a geographical spread of resources so that services are provided in areas where they are needed.

Organisations applying under this priority will be expected to demonstrate how they will:

- Engage in, and contribute to local area and neighbourhood partnerships including forums and community councils
- Influence and contribute to developing communities at a neighbourhood level
- Promote relationships across diverse communities
- Provide capacity-building support for local activities run directly by residents, and by smaller organisations
- Provide IT resources for groups and individuals who may otherwise be unable to access them
- Operate from premises that are:
 - Accessible in line with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010
 - Able to bring together a wide range of community groups
 - Able to generate income
- Ensure facilities are of good quality and are accessible to groups and individuals.

Outcomes

Organisations will be expected to demonstrate how they will achieve the following outcomes and how these will be measured:

- Strengthened partnership working between agencies, community groups and with local people
- Increased effectiveness of and engagement with local neighbourhood regeneration and renewal initiatives
- Increased community activity & involvement and the development of cross community relationships
- Community groups benefiting from access to digital services to support their work.

These outcomes will be measured using methods which may include surveys or feedback from user groups; levels of participation in activities; levels of participation in consultations and public forums.

SPECIFIC CRITERIA – ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY PROGRAMME

The vision for the Environment & Ecology programme is ‘A Greener Borough.’

One of the Council’s major priorities is to deliver a greener Southwark. The voluntary and community sector is a key partner in the delivery of this priority.

The emphasis of the Environment and Ecology programme is to promote the environment, engage with the community and provide site management where applicable

The Environment & Ecology programme criteria are in line with the borough’s Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) which can be found at

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200073/parks_and_open_spaces/534/southwark_ecology/2.

The BAP sets out 5 themes which are:

1. The Natural Environment and Ecosystems Services
2. The Urban Forest
3. The Built Environment
4. Climate Change and Sustainability
5. Connecting with Nature

Organisations should consider initiatives that fall under one or more of these themes.

Applicants need to demonstrate how they will involve local communities in **some** or **all of the following activities (priority will be given to those able to demonstrate the most)**:

- Promoting sustainable practices such as: increasing biodiversity, encouraging wildlife gardening, provision of food growing and development of green infrastructure
- Working with tenants and residents associations to involve residents in the care, improvement and enjoyment of Southwark’s open spaces
- Seeking to improve the wellbeing of all sections of the community, especially those from disadvantaged groups, through involvement with the natural environment
- Providing training and volunteering opportunities in management and biological monitoring of open spaces and ecological sites.
- Providing formal or informal learning opportunities for children, young people and adults, based on engagement with the natural environment.

Outcomes

Organisations will be expected to demonstrate how they will **achieve some** or **all** of the following outcomes and how those outcomes will be measured:

- Increase in green spaces managed using sustainable practices

- Contribution to Increased local biodiversity through the management and creation of habitats in the borough
- Improved health and wellbeing of people through interaction with green spaces and the natural environment
- Communities are empowered to develop their own capacity to maintain and manage open spaces and ecological sites
- Contribution to robust biological monitoring of open spaces. For more on biological monitoring see the BAP sections 3.19 and 3.20
- Increased provision of educational opportunities for children, young people and adults, particularly from disadvantaged groups.

Premises

- 6 For organisations in occupation of council property to be considered for the Community Capacity Fund you must have a formalised and agreed occupation (such as a lease or tenancy agreement).

Deadline for submissions

- 7 Applications will be sought from all currently funded organisations together with new applications. The deadline for receipt of applications will be **Friday 16th October 2015**.

Available Resources

- 8 For 2016/17 the council's budgets for funding the Community Capacity programme and the Environment and Ecology programme have not yet been determined and will be subject to the council's budget review process. For 2015/16 the budget for the Community Capacity programme was £850,467 and the budget for the Environment & Ecology programme was £99,451.

The council is also committed to providing 3 months notice of funding decisions where necessary which will need to be factored into the budget.

Annex A:

The Community Capacity grant aid programme will **NOT** consider applications for funding for organisations whose main activities fall within the following theme/service-based programmes:

Advice Services (Housing & Community Services Dept.)
Adult Learning (Environment & Leisure Dept.)
Arts and Culture (Environment and Leisure Dept.)
Community Safety (Environment and Leisure Dept.)
Early Years (Children's & Adults' Services Dept.)
Local Economy (Chief Executive's Department Dept.)
Public Health (Chief Executive's Department Dept.)
Social Care - Universal (Children's & Adults' Services Dept.)
Youth provision (Children's & Adults Services Dept.)

Each of these council programmes has its own arrangements and timetables for commissioning from voluntary sector providers, including through formal tendering.

For more information on these programmes, and on the commissioning process for the Community Capacity programme, contact:

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Annex B: Community Capacity Commissioning 2015/16

Community Capacity programme 2015/16	
Organisation	Funding 2015/16
Aaina Women's Group (AWG)	32,073
Aylesbury Everywoman's Centre	18,000
Bede House Core Costs	17,378
Beormund Community Centre	92,999
Bermondsey Community Kitchen	17,500
Blackfriars Settlement	27,874
Cambridge House Core Costs	17,378
Cooltan Arts	15,000
Crystal Palace Development Trust	11,324
East Dulwich Community Centre Assoc.	8,700
Forum for Equalities and Human Rights	28,000
Latin American Disabled People's Project	20,000
Latin American Women's Rights Service	17,000
Mental Fight Club	8,800
Organisation of Blind African & Caribbeans	20,421
Paxton Green Time Bank	18,000
Pecan - Foodbank	32,145
Pecan - Hourbank	34,315
Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum (Southwark Travellers Action Group)	23,000
Somali Integration & Development Assoc.	61,500
Southwark Cyprus Turkish Assoc.	9,300
Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers	53,319
Southwark Pensioners Centre	128,888
Southwark Vietnamese Chinese Community	39,539
St Faiths Youth and Community Centre	27,281
Time & Talents Core Costs	17,378
Time & Talents Over 60's Grp	5,339
Wickway Community Centre	30,000
Working With Men	18,000
TOTAL	£850,451

Annex C: Environment & Ecology Grants 2015-16

Organisation	Amount funded 2015/16
London Wildlife Trust – Centre for Wildlife Gardening	£42,500
Surrey Docks Farm	£56,951
TOTAL	£99,451