

Item No. 14.	Classification: Open	Date: 9 September 2015	Meeting Name: Dulwich Community Council
Report title:		Allocation of Neighbourhoods Fund 2015/16	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		East Dulwich Ward	
From:		Head of Community Engagement	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Dulwich Community Council approves a further £2,000 of Neighbourhoods Fund for two projects from an unallocated amount of £31,365 for East Dulwich Ward set out in appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The two projects are being proposed by members of East Dulwich Ward and a decision to fund the £500 to Christ Church Bread of Life Cafe was announced at the 24 June 2015 meeting and needs to be formally agreed. The other project is for The independent shops map, for £1,500.
3. The neighbourhoods fund is a new funding programme, which was created by the merger of two former revenue programmes known as cleaner, greener, safer revenue (CGS) and community council fund.
4. The previous cabinet member for communities, employment and business authorised the amalgamation the cleaner greener safer revenue fund and community council fund, into a single funding programme to create a new neighbourhoods fund for the 2015/16 round and onwards. This decision (IDM) was taken on 12 December 2014. The criteria for the new fund will, in the main, remain the same as previous programmes but have been streamlined to reflect the new brand.
5. The cleaner greener safer revenue fund was established in February 2012, initially consisting of £210k borough-wide funding budget with an allocation of £10k per ward. In February 2013, council assembly agreed to increase the funding programme to £420k, each ward receiving £20k. During the 2015/16 budget setting process, a further £88k was allocated to the neighbourhoods fund, bringing the allocation per ward to £30k.
6. The purpose of introducing the cleaner greener safer revenue fund in 2012 was to give community councils decision making powers over significant amounts of revenue funding, that they could allocate to meet locally determined priorities, and also to enhance and complement the effectiveness of the cleaner greener safer capital funding programme.
7. Community councils also took decisions on the community council fund and awarded revenue grants of between £100 and £1k for community projects. The total fund available borough-wide for projects in 2014/15 amounted to £122k.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. Dulwich Community Council had a total budget of £134,339 to allocate at the 17 March 2015 meeting and this consisted of £90k available for 2015/16 plus an unallocated amount of £44,339 from the previous cleaner greener safer revenue (CGS revenue) and community council fund (CCF).
9. Each ward will have £30K of revenue grants to allocate. It is proposed that any unallocated funds from both CGS revenue and CCF are to be carried forward from previous rounds (years) and added to the financial year commencing 1 April 2015.
10. The community councils will use the criteria set out below for the allocation of this funding.
 - a. Creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to get on well together; (e.g. community cohesion).
 - b. Establishing projects which treat each other with respect and consideration (e.g. being a good neighbour, inter-generational contacts).
 - c. Encouraging residents to be responsible for their own neighbourhood (e.g. community clean-ups; volunteering initiatives).
 - d. Specific measures to enhance a neighbourhood's environment (e.g. increased cleaning).
11. A community council may choose to allocate some of their neighbourhoods fund resources to their CGS capital allocations.
12. Subject to the availability of resources, the neighbourhoods fund may be used to 'buy' services from the council.
13. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.
14. From the 2015/16 round, East Dulwich ward had a total allocation of £52,630 of which they had already allocated £21,265 at the 17 March 2015 meeting, leaving a balance of £31,365.

Community Impact Statement

15. 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.
16. An explicit objective within community council 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 mutual interest. The merger of CGS revenue and CCF will not adversely affect groups who normally apply for these funding streams.
17. The allocation of the Dulwich neighbourhoods 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, Dulwich neighbourhoods fund activities will have an impact on the whole of Southwark.

18. The neighbourhoods fund is an important tool in achieving community participation and cohesion.
19. 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.
20. 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.
21. 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.
22. Due consideration was given to equalities impact assessment during the design of this awards process and no adverse impact was evident.

Resource implications

23. No resource implications

Consultation

24. Neighbourhoods fund projects may require consultation with stakeholders, including the project applicant, local residents and tenants and residents associations where applicable.

Financial implications

25. Only a part of the £134,339 available to the Dulwich neighbourhoods fund in 2015/16 has been allocated, with £31,365 still available to the East Dulwich ward to allocate. Therefore the additional £2k proposed for allocation in this report has funding in place to support it.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Legal Services

26. The Local Government Act 2000 gives the Leader the power to delegate any executive function to whoever lawfully can undertake the function. The

allocation of the Neighbourhoods Fund is an executive function.

27. Community councils are 'area committees' within the meaning of the 2000 Act and executive functions can be delegated to them by the Leader.
28. 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 is was restricted or prevented from doing under the previous legislation.
29. The general power of competence includes 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.
30. The provision of funding under the Neighbourhoods Fund falls within the scope of the kind of activities the council can undertake under the general power of competence as this includes the power to give financial assistance to any person.
31. In allocating funding under the neighbourhoods 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 19, 20 and 21 of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services

32. The 2015/16 Neighbourhoods fund for Dulwich has sufficient remaining funds to absorb this additional £2k allocation.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13-2014/15 - Revenue budget Dulwich Community Council Decision Minutes 17 March 2015	Southwark Council Housing and Community Services 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH Online: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g4840/Printed%20minutes%20Tuesday%2017-Mar-2015%2019.00%20Dulwich%20Community%20Council.pdf?T=1	Grace Semakula 020 7525 4928

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Dulwich Community Council Neighbourhoods Fund Applications

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Councils Coordinator	
Report Author	Grace Semakula, Community Council Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	5 August 2015	
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		26 August 2015