

Item No. 1.8	Classification: Open	Date: 29 June 2016	Meeting Name: Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council
Report title:		Allocation of Neighbourhoods Fund 2016-17	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Cathedrals and East Walworth wards	
From:		Director of Communities	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council note the programme variation decision dated 3 May 2016 of the director of communities to award £1,000 to the Peabody Estate, Southwark Street. A copy of the report is at Appendix 1.
2. That the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council approve the award of a further £4,000 from the neighbourhoods fund to Mint Street adventure playground, from an unallocated amount of £8,279 for Cathedrals ward. Detailed information about the application is at Appendix 2.
3. That the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council approve the award of a further £4,050 from the neighbourhoods fund for two projects from an unallocated amount of £23,622.52 for East Walworth ward. Detailed information about the applications is at Appendix 2.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. In May 2016 the director of communities, having consulted the chair of Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council, made a programme variation decision to award £1,000 from the Cathedrals ward unallocated neighbourhood fund of £8,279 for a community engagement programme in the Peabody Estate, Southwark Street. A copy of the report is at Appendix 1. The report explains the reason for a programme variation decision having to be made prior to this meeting.
5. Friends of Burgess Park submitted an application within the required timeframe for the Neighbourhoods Fund 2016-17 round. The application was not encompassed in the original application process. This application needs to be formally considered and decision announced at the 29 June 2016 community council meeting.
6. Cathedrals and East Walworth ward councillors have submitted members' proposals for the two following activities, respectively:
 - a. Mint Street adventure playground: Funding for summer activities
 - b. Congreve Street coalition.
7. Decisions on these proposals fall to be considered by the community council for decision. The neighbourhoods fund was introduced in 2015 by merging two former revenue programmes known as cleaner, greener, safer (CGS) revenue and community council fund (CCF).
8. The cabinet member for communities, employment and business authorised the

amalgamation of the CGS revenue fund and CCF, 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 neighbourhoods fund has a borough-wide funding budget of £630,000 with an allocation of £30,000 per ward.

9. The purpose of introducing the neighbourhoods fund was to give community councils decision making powers over significant amounts of revenue funding, that they could allocate to meet locally determined priorities.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

10. Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council had a total budget of £156,000 to allocate at the 14 March 2016 meeting. This consisted of £150,000 available for 2016-17 plus an unallocated amount of £6,000 carried forward from previous year's programmes.
11. The community councils 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).
12. A community council may choose to allocate some of their neighbourhoods fund resources to their CGS capital allocations.
13. Subject to the availability of resources, the neighbourhoods fund may be used to 'buy' services from the council.
14. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this decision is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.
15. From the 2016-17 round, Cathedrals ward had a total allocation of £30,000 of which they allocated £21,720.91 at the 14 March 2016 meeting, leaving a balance of £8,279.09.
16. From the 2016-17 East Walworth ward had a total allocation of £33,000 plus an additional £10,000 returned, of which they had already allocated £19,377.48 at the 14 March 2016 meeting, leaving a balance of £23,622.52.

Community impact statement

17. 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.
18. An explicit objective of 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 mutual interest.
19. The allocation of the Borough, Bankside and Walworth neighbourhoods fund will, in the main, affect the people living in the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community

Council area. However, in making the area a better place to live and improving life chances for local people, Borough, Bankside and Walworth neighbourhoods fund activities will have an impact on the whole of Southwark.

20. The neighbourhoods fund is an important tool in achieving community participation and cohesion.
21. In fulfilling the 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 ("the 2010 Act") 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; and
 - c. Foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it.
22. 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 2010 Act.
23. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity is further defined in section 149 of the 2010 Act 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.
24. Due consideration was given to an equalities impact assessment during the design of this awards process and no adverse impact was evident.

Resource implications

25. No resource implications.

Consultation

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

Financial implications

27. From the 2016-17 round, Cathedrals ward had a total allocation of £30,000 of which they allocated £21,720.91 at the 14 March 2016 meeting, leaving a balance of £8,279.09.
28. From the 2016/17 East Walworth ward had a total allocation of £33,000 plus an additional £10,000 returned, of which they had already allocated £19,377.48 at the 14 March 2016 meeting, leaving a balance of £23,622.52.
29. It is recommended that community councils set aside some of the unallocated funds from previous years in order to prevent an over allocation of funds, as well as act as a

contingency from which urgent or incidental requests can be funded throughout the year.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

30. The allocation of the neighbourhoods fund is an executive function. The Local Government Act 2000 ('the 2000 Act') gives the Leader the power to delegate any executive function to whoever lawfully can undertake the function, including "area committees". Community councils are 'area committees' within the meaning of the 2000 Act.
31. The council's constitution (Part 3H) provides that community councils have delegated authority to take decisions in relation to the neighbourhoods fund, but that the appropriate chief officer (in consultation with the chair of the community council) shall be authorised to take a "programme variation decision" required to be taken before a scheduled meeting of a community council.
32. The Localism Act 2011 gives councils a general power of competence 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 previous legislation.
33. 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.
34. 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.
35. 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 21, 22 and 23 of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

36. The report sets out two additional members' proposals at paragraph 6 for the Cathedrals and East Walworth wards to be funded from unallocated balances within the overall Borough, Bankside and Walworth neighbourhoods fund for 2016-17.
37. The current financial positions of each ward are summarised in paragraphs 27 and 28, including presenting the unallocated balances.
38. Following approval the individual wards will still have funding available to act as a contingency or to respond to unforeseen events through the course of 2016-17.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Neighbourhoods Fund Report IDM, 12 December 2014	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540
Neighbourhoods Fund 2016/17 awards	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Pauline Bonner 0207 525 1019
Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13-2014/15 – Revenue budget	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s35022/Report%20Policy%20and%20Resources%20Strategy%20201314%20-%20201516.pdf	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Programme variation decision dated 3 May 2016
Appendix 2	Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council Neighbourhoods Fund Applications

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Councils Coordinator	
Report Author	Pauline Bonner, Community Council Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 June 2016	
Key Decision	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		16 June 2016