

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 3 May 2016	Decision Maker: Director of Communities
Report title:		Neighbourhoods fund award to Southwark Street Peabody Estate TRA	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Cathedrals	
From:		Community Council Coordinator	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council awards £1,000 from an unallocated amount of £27,312 for a community engagement programme in the Peabody Estate, Southwark Street (Cathedrals ward).
2. The head of Community Engagement determine this further allocation of funding in consultation with the Chair of Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. 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). The Cabinet Member for Communities, Employment and Business authorised the amalgamation 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.
4. The Neighbourhoods Fund has a borough-wide funding budget of £630,000 with an allocation of £30,000 per ward.
5. 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

6. Following the distressing murder of a Police Officer in a flat on the Southwark Street Peabody Estate, SE1 in early April 2016, Members of Cathedrals Ward have proposed to fund £1000 from their unallocated Neighbourhoods Fund (£8,279). The funding will be used for an event to bring residents together to collectively support each other and help them to move on as a community from a very traumatic event on their estate.
7. The money would be given to the Southwark Street Peabody Estate TRA to decide how they would like to spend the money to help residents on the estate. This could be in a form of a BBQ, an away day or an event that brings residents together.
8. A decision on the additional funding needs to be taken before the 29 June 2016 Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council meeting to enable the activity to take place in the coming weeks. The Head of Community Engagement has consulted with the Chair of Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council who is aware of this decision.

9. In the event that a fund variation decision is required before the next scheduled meeting of a community council the appropriate chief officer shall be authorised to determine this, in consultation with the relevant chair of the community council as set out in Part 3H of the council's constitution.
10. Each ward has £30,000 of revenue grants to allocate. It is proposed that any unallocated funds are to be carried forward from previous rounds (years) and added to the financial year commencing 1 April 2016.
11. 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)
12. 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.

Community impact statement

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. The Neighbourhoods Fund is an important tool in achieving community participation and cohesion.
17. 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.

18. 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.
19. 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.

Resource implications

20. No resource implications

Consultation

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

Financial implications

22. The Borough, Bankside and Walworth Neighbourhoods Fund had a total budget of £156,000 for 2016/17 round. After the decisions taken at the March 2016 meeting, £8,279 remains in the Cathedrals ward budget and thus available to allocate.
23. 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

24. 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. The council's constitution (Part 3H) provides that Community Councils have delegated authority to take decisions in relation to the Neighbourhoods Fund.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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 17, 18 and 19 of the report.

Policy implications

29. The Neighbourhoods Fund is fully aligned with the Council's policies toward sustainability, regeneration and community engagement.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
BBW Neighbourhoods Fund 2016/17 decisions	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=350&Mid=5254&Ver=4	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	BBW Member's proposal form

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Council Co-ordinator	
Report Author	Pauline Bonner, Community Council Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	3 May 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	N/A	

CHIEF OFFICER APPROVAL

Under the powers delegated to me in accordance with the council's constitution, I authorise action in accordance with the recommendation(s) contained in the above report.

Signature Date

Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement