

Item No. 3.4	Classification: Open	Date: 28 September 2016	Meeting Name: Dulwich Community Council
Report title:		Allocation of Neighbourhoods Fund 2016-17	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Village	
From:		Director of Communities	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Dulwich Community Council approves the award of a further £2,400 of Neighbourhoods Fund 2016/17 from the unallocated amount of £2,413 in Village ward. The application is listed in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A Village ward councillor submitted a members' proposal for a project called the James Black Community Theatre. The proposal is to fund a feasibility study to bring a lecture theatre in the lower ground floor of the Judith Kerr Primary School back into use for the wider community. Currently the lecture theatre is derelict and the funding will enable the school to explore how to bring the venue back into use.
3. The Neighbourhoods Fund was introduced in 2015 by merging two former revenue programmes known as Cleaner, Greener, Safer Revenue and Community Council Fund. 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. Dulwich Community Council had a total budget of £140,804 to allocate at the 15 March 2016 meeting. This consisted of £90,000 available for 2016-17 plus an unallocated amount of £50,804 carried forward from the previous year's programme.
7. 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)
8. A community council may choose to allocate some of their neighbourhoods fund resources to their Cleaner Greener Safer capital allocations.
 9. Subject to the availability of resources, the Neighbourhoods Fund may be used to 'buy' services from the council.
 10. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this decision is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.
 11. From the 2016/17 round, Village ward had a total allocation of £40,387 of which they allocated £37,974 at the 15 March 2016 meeting, leaving a balance of £2,413.

Community Impact Statement

12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. The Neighbourhoods Fund is an important tool in achieving community participation and cohesion.
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. Due consideration was given to an equalities impact assessment during the design of this awards process and no adverse impact was evident.

Resource implications

20. There are 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. From the 2016/17 round, Village ward had a total allocation of £40,387 of which they allocated £37,974 at the 15 March 2016 meeting, leaving a balance of £2,413.
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 16, 17 and 18 of the report.

Director of Finance

29. The 2016/17 budget allocation for the new Neighbourhoods fund has been agreed by council assembly. It stands at £30,000 per ward and thus £90,000 has been awarded to Dulwich Community Council. A further £50,804 has been carried forward from previous years and is thus also available for allocation.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Dulwich Neighbourhoods Fund 2016/17 Decisions	http://modern.gov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=40352	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Dulwich Community Council Neighbourhoods Fund Application Investment Allocations

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Councils Coordinator	
Report Author	Fitzroy Lewis, Community Councils Development Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	15 September 2016	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to the Constitutional Team	15 September 2016	