

<b>Item No.</b> 14.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 7 December 2016	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council
<b>Report title:</b>		Reallocation of Neighbourhoods Fund 2016-17	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		Riverside	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Communities	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council authorises the Shad Thames Area Management Partnership (STAMP) to use an underspend of £700 from their 2016-17 Neighbourhoods Fund (NSF) grant to fund revenue costs of another local project, Shad Thames Green wall.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. As part of the NSF 2016-17 decisions, STAMP was awarded a grant of £1,965 to hold the Shad Thames Trail (Points of View project).
3. Due to securing further funding, STAMP now has an underspend of £700 and the group would like this money to be spent to fund some revenue costs associated with a CGS 2015 project, Shad Thames Green Wall. The funding will be used for maintenance costs associated with the green wall and will be required to meet the NSF usual monitoring and evaluation process.
4. The chair of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council and Riverside ward councillors have been consulted on this matter.
5. The NSF was introduced in 2015 by merging two former revenue programmes known as cleaner, greener, safer (CGS) revenue fund and the community council fund (CCF).
6. The NSF has a borough-wide funding budget of £630,000 with an allocation of £30,000 per ward.
7. The purpose of introducing the NSF 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

8. 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)
9. A community council may choose to allocate some of their NSF resources to their CGS capital allocations.
10. Subject to the availability of resources, the NSF may be used to 'buy' services from the council.
11. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this decision is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.

### **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 Bermondsey and Rotherhithe NSF will, in the main, affect the people living in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community council area. However, in making the area a better place to live and improving life chances for local people, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe NSF activities will have an impact on the whole of Southwark.
15. The NSF 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.

- Due consideration was given to an equalities impact assessment during the design of this awards process and no adverse impact was evident.

### **Resource implications**

19. None.

### **Consultation**

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

### **Financial implications**

21. None.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Law and Democracy**

22. 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.
23. 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 it is restricted or prevented from doing under previous legislation.
24. 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.
25. The provision of funding under the NSF falls within the scope of the kind of activities the council can undertake under the general power of competence.
26. In allocating funding under the NSF 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.

## 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	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
<b>Report Author</b>	Forid Ahmed, Community Council Team Leader	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
Dated	21 November 2016	
Key Decision	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	21 November 2016	