

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 April 2017	Meeting Name: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing
Report title:		Approval of the 2017-18 Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant (TRSIG), formerly Joint Security Initiative (JSI)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards and Southwark estate residents	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing approves the Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant programme recommendations for 2017-18 for a total sum of £180,000 to the 27 organisations detailed in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant (TRSIG) is an annual grants programme specifically for the provision of services and activities on council estates for the benefit of tenants and residents and to contribute to social regeneration.
3. The Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant Panel is responsible for the assessment of the applications submitted to this programme and for making recommendations to fund. Officers administer the programme and ensure criteria are complied with and that there is no duplication with other grants programmes.
4. The programme was established following Southwark's Tenants Conference held in 1999. The TRSIG budget is associated with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). This means it can only be allocated for schemes run or run on behalf of the Tenants & Residents Associations (TRAs) and Tenant Management Organisations (TMOs) for the benefit of the tenants and residents of council estates.
5. Following a consultation exercise in 2015 the priorities of the programme were simplified and made more specific, enabling applicants to design schemes with particular beneficiaries in mind. Therefore an applicant is able to provide activities targeting children, young people, people who are economically inactive or older people.
6. TRSIG programme eligible activities are broad and enabling. They are:
 - After-school activities for children
 - Activities to alleviate isolation and loneliness among older people
 - Activities intended to equip tenants and residents for volunteering and employment
 - Activities intended to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly among young people.
7. Eligibility requirements are that applicants must be from:

- Tenants & Residents Associations
 - Tenant Management Organisations
 - Service providers working with the above groups (not on their own)
 - Applications must be for revenue schemes only. The maximum amount that can be applied for is £10,000.
 - Applications must have at least two signatories and one must be the chair
 - Applications must include the minutes of the Management Committee meeting when their TRSIG was discussed and agreed.
8. Successful applicants are required to ensure their governing body, all workers, volunteers, contracted agents or adult participants are aware of their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The 2017-18 TRSIG programme

9. The programme was advertised directly to TRA/TMOs on 6 February as well as to the SGTO. Information about this opportunity was provided upon request to others eg potential service providers. The deadline for the submission of completed applications was 13 March.
10. Two workshops about the programme were advertised: one in the south of the borough and the other in the north. The purpose of these workshops is to:
- Explain the programme criteria
 - Offer advice on completing applications
 - Offer presentations by TRAs and service providers who currently run TRSIG schemes
 - Answer questions from attendees about the programme.

TRSIG Panel Recommendations

11. A total of 30 applications were received totalling £255,488. The panel recommended 27 applications for funding. The total amount of the applications recommended for funding is £179,833.
12. The panel in making its recommendations considered each application and whether the grant criteria were met. The panel members are drawn from Area Housing Forums and are TRA members. In order to avoid any potential conflicts of interest when considering applications, panel members are required to declare where they have an interest in a scheme and subsequently take no part in the discussions relating to that application. Officers keep a record of the panel discussions, any conflicts of interest and where further clarification of information is required.
13. As the budget available is not sufficient to meet the total costs of all those applications that meet the broad grant criteria, the panel took the following into account:
- Ensuring that there is a mixture of awards to new applications as well as awards to organisations that have previously delivered schemes successfully. 11 of the 27 awards recommended are for new schemes.
 - Whether the costs submitted were reasonable and provided value for money.

- The number of stated beneficiaries of the scheme.
 - Subject to the criteria being met, ensuring that there is a good geographical spread of awards so that residents across the borough have the opportunity to benefit from the schemes being offered.
 - Whether there was evidence that previously funded schemes making a new application had delivered outcomes and complied with the monitoring requirements.
14. In instances where the panel recommended a lower amount of funding than the amount applied for, costs such as hall hire, insurance, publicity, printing and management costs were considered costs that the TRA or service provider would already be able to cover from other sources.
 15. One applicant, Gloucester Grove, submitted three applications, two of which were recommended for funding. The applications were for relatively low amounts, £3,900 and £6,256 and the total amount recommended for both schemes is £8,230.
 16. The Panel did not recommend two applications for funding:
 - Gloucester Grove TMO – Golden Oldies gentle exercise and coffee mornings. The application was considered to show insufficient detail with no hourly rates or numbers of sessions to be delivered. This was one of three applications submitted by this TMO. The other two were successful as stated in paragraph 15 above.
 - Bells Gardens TRA – Outreach media and discussion workshops, photography, journalism and video interactive workshops. This was not considered good value for money as the application stated that there would be only 12 direct beneficiaries; therefore the project would cost £827 per person. In addition the duration of the project appeared to be only one week and over half the costs were on equipment hire.
 17. Following the panel meeting, checks were carried out against applications to and awards from the council's Neighbourhoods Fund. One TRSIG applicant, Brimtonroy TRA, had been awarded £5,000 for its After School Club. As its TRSIG application is for the same scheme it will not be funded from the TRSIG.
 18. Unsuccessful applicants are written to and given reasons why their applications do not meet the grant criteria. Feedback is offered with a view to building knowledge and awareness of the criteria and to enable other organisations to be funded in the future.
 19. A comparison of applications submitted and applications recommended for funded is below.

Year	Applications submitted	Applications recommended for funding
2014/15	28	20
2015/16	50 (via x 2 TRSIG rounds)	28
2016/17	41	27
2017/18	30	27

20. It is noted that the proportion of applications that are successful has increased in recent years. This may be the result of TRAs / TMOs becoming more skilled in completing grant applications.
21. It should be noted that the maximum grant amount per application has reduced over recent years as the total budget has been reduced.

Year	Max grant per application
2013/14	£20,000
2014/15	£12,000
2015/16	£12,000
2016/17	£10,000
2017/18	£10,000

22. The table below provides an overview of the number of awards broken down by Area Housing Forum. The number of awards per area is broadly speaking similar to last year.

Area Housing Forum	Number of awards		
	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16
Bermondsey East	0	1	2
Bermondsey West	1	1	1
Borough & Bankside	2	2	2
Camberwell East	5	3	2
Camberwell West	1	3	1
Dulwich	1	1	1
Nunhead & Peckham	4	4	3
Peckham	5	5	6
Rotherhithe	2	3	4
Aylesbury	0	0	0
Walworth East	2	0	1
Walworth West	3	3	4
Borough wide	1	1	1
Total	27	27	28

23. The scheme delivers a range of outcomes both for the beneficiaries directly involved, and for the wider community. Monitoring of the schemes covers the following:
- Needs/issues addressed
 - Evidence of impact
 - Participant statistics and profile data relating to age and ethnicity
 - Total number of users.

Outcomes and impact

24. Impacts of the 2016-17 programme have been identified through monitoring information provided. The scheme has a significant impact in terms of bringing estate residents, many of whom may be isolated, together for activities that enhance their wellbeing. In addition many of the schemes have had an impact in engaging positive

activities for young people and preventing anti social behaviour on estates. Some examples are set out below:

- An afterschool football scheme in Peckham successfully created a diversionary activity for about 24 young people through weekly training delivered by FA accredited coaches. In addition to this increasing self discipline, respect for others and team work, the group has entered three tournaments and made it to one final. Attendees have also been for trials with football clubs and two players have been signed for Dulwich Hamlet FC.
- A community learning programme in the far south of the borough for residents has improved their skills in order to help increase paid employment or further training opportunities. Learner feedback included:
 - I now feel more confident to apply for jobs that need Excel skills
 - I have learnt a lot about customer care and have met people from different backgrounds, I am very happy thanks everyone
 - I feel less isolated and more in touch with the community
 - I enjoy spending time with other local people.
- Two gardening projects, on the Brayards and D'Eynsford Estates, have been funded which have a number of benefits including making areas on estates previously blighted by antisocial behaviour into attractive and accessible places for residents to spend time and engage in gardening. For example the D'Eynsford Estate 'Secret Garden' provides weekly after school activities for children with around 15 attending regularly plus weekly half day sessions for serious older gardeners, with around 40 attending regularly.

Policy Implications

25. TRSIG schemes principally target interventions and resources to improve social problems linked to quality of life indicators such as anti-social behaviour, poor social and environmental wellbeing and inequality for tenants and residents.

Community Impact Statement

26. The panel consists of representatives from across the borough. The involvement of the panel strengthens the level of community participation in the assessment process and provides a level of community challenge and insight. Representatives are drawn from Southwark's tenants' movement and reflect the diversity of the borough.
27. The scheme brings a number of service providers who have a high profile in the borough to work in partnership with the TRAs to provide services to estate residents who may be marginalised and isolated. For 2017-18 these include: Bee Urban, Blue Elephant Theatre, Inspire, Millwall for All Trust, South London Gallery and Westminster House Youth Club.
28. It is anticipated that the outcomes of TRSIG schemes will prove beneficial to tenants and residents of the estates and surrounding areas, particularly those from marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The majority of proposed schemes in 2017-18 target children and young people, isolated and lonely older residents particularly those in sheltered housing units, and the unemployed.

29. One of the main objectives of the programme is to promote inclusion and cohesive communities. The programme seeks to advance equality of opportunity and help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The monitoring of the programme includes data on the scheme beneficiaries.
30. One project not recommended for funding, the Golden Oldies' gentle exercise & coffee mornings mentioned in paragraph 16, concerned the protected characteristic of Age. This decision will be mitigated by the funding of a similar pan borough service provided by South London Cares for older residents. Further analysis of the data for this year's scheme will be carried out to support the council's duty in regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Consultation

31. There is regular communication with the TRSIG Panel before any significant changes are made. The application form was recently re-designed in consultation with the current providers of schemes. The simplified priorities of the programme were consulted on before implementation.

Resource implications

32. TRSIG is managed by the Communities division of the council's Housing and Modernisation department.

Financial implications

33. The recommendations in this report are funded by way of a dedicated 2017-18 grants budget of £190,000.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

34. The Localism Act 2011 enables the council to do anything that individuals generally may do, which would include incurring expenditure, giving financial or other assistance to any person or entering into arrangements or agreements with any person. This power can be used even if legislation already exists that allows the council to do the same thing. However the council cannot to do anything which it was restricted or prevented from doing under that previous legislation.
35. The provision of grants from within the funds identified for the TRSIG programme falls within the scope of the activities the council can undertake under the Localism Act 2011. Under the decision making arrangements set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution, the decisions set out in the recommendations section of the report is one that the cabinet member is able to take.
36. The council is under an on-going duty, in exercising all of its functions, to have regard to the public sector equality duty (PSED) in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the council to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, and advance of equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (such as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not.

37. When making a decision on the recommendations in this report the cabinet member must actively consider the PSED including considerations of the potential benefits of the proposed grants to particular groups in relation to the duty and community impact.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FIN0957)

38. The recommendations and funding arrangements set out in this report are noted.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Summary of TRSIG Panel recommendations	Communities division, Housing & Modernisation, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Angus Lyon X 54069

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant (TRSIG): Funding Recommendations

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities		
Report Author	Angus Lyon, Commissioning Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	18 April 2017		
Key Decision?	Yes		
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		Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			18 April 2017