

Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 25 January 2022

7.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London
SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No. 1

List of Contents

| Item No. | Title | Page No. |
|----------|--|----------|
| 7. | Expenditure of Local Funds To receive information on various grant funding streams available for individuals, community and voluntary groups and local businesses to bid into. | 1 - 8 |

Contact

Everton Roberts on 020 7525 7221 or email: everton.roberts@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: www.southwark.gov.uk

Date: 19 January 2022

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| Item No. 7. | Classification: Open | Date: 25 January 2022 | Meeting Name: Overview and Scrutiny Committee |
| Report title: | | Local Funds Expenditure | |
| Ward(s) or groups affected: | | All | |
| From: | | Head of Scrutiny | |

RECOMMENDATION

1. That overview and scrutiny committee note the report and agree next steps as appropriate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The council has various grant funding streams available for individuals, community and voluntary groups and local businesses to bid into and which contribute to the achievement of the Borough Plan priorities.
3. The overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) previously discussed local funds expenditure at its meeting in October 2019. OSC considered that whilst most of the individual funds are well understood, there is no overarching document which maps the totality of the funds, their purpose, how they are accessed and who makes the final decisions. The overview and scrutiny committee concluded that the totality of funds available would help clarify whether there was any merit in further scrutiny. OSC also sought further detail on how the funds were evaluated in terms of the effectiveness of the grant allocation processes with specific regard to decision making and its effectiveness in delivering objectives, i.e. is it meeting the needs of the community.
4. The OSC objectives were therefore to seek answers to the following questions:
 - are we funding the right things?
 - are the arrangements fit for purpose?
 - are the funds accessible?
5. This report has been prepared to inform OSC's considerations.
6. Cabinet has subsequently initiated a two-step approach to reviewing grants in light of Southwark Stands Together and a second broader piece of work reviewing the council's whole portfolio of grants to ensure they secure maximum value against the council's strategic priorities for our communities. The grants and commissioning review report will therefore

provide a wider context to the local funds expenditure and take forward many of the questions raised by OSC. The review report is due to be considered by cabinet on 1 February 2022.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The council funds a wide range of grant schemes available to individuals, community and voluntary groups and local businesses. Appendix 1 summarises the key grant funding programmes, their purpose and decision maker. In addition to schemes provided by the council, there are many other sources of funding available for similar or complementary purposes provided by other bodies. Many of these are signposted on the council's website.
8. As indicated in Appendix 1, the source of the funding comes from various budget areas, some of which are core budget allocations and others are funded from one-off resources.

| Funding source | £'000 |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Annual revenue budget | 3,038 |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | 450 |
| Capital Programme | 4,680 |
| Reserves | 6,337 |
| Total | 14,505 |

To put these figures into context, gross revenue expenditure in 2021-22 is circa £850m (General Fund) and £260m (Housing Revenue Account).

9. Base budget provision has been established for a number of core grant funding streams, notably the Common Purposes Grant to support the voluntary and community sector, the Neighbourhood Fund for community projects and the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme to support residents facing a crisis, emergency or disaster.
10. HRA resources support grant schemes for Tenants and Resident Associations (TRAs) and Getting Involved Grants that are available to run local projects and activities aimed at improving the wellbeing of people who live in council homes.
11. Capital programme resources have been allocated to fund grants that deliver permanent improvements and physical items such as the Cleaner, Greener, Safer (CGS) scheme and the Devolved Highways Fund (DHF). The Active Southwark Legacy fund is a new programme being offered to local organisations to help increase the amount of sport and physical activity that people do on a regular basis especially for people that are not able to maintain an active lifestyle.
12. Reserves are one-off resources and generally, fund programmes that are time and resource limited and aimed at tackling specific issues and priorities. Examples include the Southwark Pioneers Fund and the

Positive Futures for Young People Fund (this allocation has largely been committed). The Voluntary Sector Transition Fund was established in 2011 to assist third sector organisations to become more sustainable.

13. The Southwark Scholarship Scheme, which pays the tuition fees for high achieving young residents from low-income families, is funded from reserves. The sustainability of this scheme is safeguarded through regular review of the level of the reserve to ensure that the balance is maintained at a level sufficient to fund all students currently on the scheme over the life of their course.
14. Reserves and government grants also help fund exceptional or demand led need. For example, demand for SESS increased significantly during the pandemic and these resources enabled the council to respond immediately to support those in greatest need. The cabinet member for finance, performance and democracy recently approved the allocation of the Household Support Fund to provide grant support for energy bills amongst low income and vulnerable households.
15. In addition to the resources identified above, funding is provided for Community Investment Plans from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is funding collected from major development sites across the Borough to pay for the implementation of new infrastructure to support the growth of communities. 25% of CIL funds raised each year are allocated for local or neighbourhood schemes. Consultation with residents on Community Investment Plans helps generate proposals that in turn are considered by ward councilors and formulated into the community investment plans. The plan sets out the selected projects considered to have the most strategic benefit for the whole ward, or alternatively meet a specific ward issue that councillors for that ward have identified as a priority.

Cabinet sponsored reviews

16. The council is carrying out a two-stage review of grant making and commissioning following a report to Cabinet in September 2020.
 - Stage one: Southwark Stands Together (SST). Review of what is currently funded and any structural barriers that Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups may face in making successful applications and how to address them.
 - Stage two: Cross council commissioning and investment in the voluntary and community sector (VCS). Review of how the council can better prioritise its investment in VCS services. The review covers all grants excluding grants to individuals and also excluded CIL and DHB.
17. These independent reviews will provide evidence based objective appraisal, challenge and opportunities for learning and improvement.

Contracts have been awarded for both reviews and final reports are due to be considered by Cabinet on 1 February 2022. The cabinet report will be published on the council website on Monday 24 January 2022.

18. Amongst the recommendations being considered by Cabinet is a proposal to develop a funding prospectus for the council that will support the delivery of the Borough Plan. The prospectus will address issues that have emerged from both reviews and will:
- Apply council wide
 - Be created in partnership with key VCS and health partners in two phases
 - Include a review of the current VCS outcomes framework
 - Phase one will focus on developing the council's priorities
 - Phase two will work with partners on how the outcomes and priorities will be delivered
19. Another recommendation being considered by Cabinet is allocating the remaining balance of Voluntary Sector Transition Fund for a one-off grants programme that would support communities to thrive and for community organisations to help build recovery from the pandemic impacts. £200k of this will be ring-fenced for Black, Asian and minority ethnic organisations.

Council website

20. The council's website provides considerable detail on the various funding available including a specific '*grants and funding*' section¹ detailing the various funding provided by the council including application arrangements, eligibility and assessment; there are pages providing information on the '*Empowering Communities programme*'² which includes information on multi-ward meetings (funding programmes information, process, and announcement of decisions is a main function of the multi-ward meetings); signposting to other funding, for example *Southwark Creates* is a digital portal of information and resources including links to cultural funding opportunities³ and funding guides, for example the United St Saviours guide to funding support for community organisations in Southwark⁴.
21. An annual report is published on the website of all grants to voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations⁵.

¹ <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/grants-and-funding>

² <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/engagement-and-consultations/empowering-communities/empowering-communities-programme>

³ <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/southwark-creates/funding>

⁴ <https://2jex0v5a2ywegwel44ey6n70-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Funding-Guide-for-Southwark-Digital-20200117.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/open-data?chapter=5>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

| Background Papers | Held At | Contact |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee agenda and minutes – 9 October 2019 | Southwark Council Website | Everton Roberts 020 7525 7221 |
| Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&MId=6559&Ver=4 | | |

APPENDICES

| No. | Title |
|------------|-------------|
| Appendix 1 | Local Funds |

AUDIT TRAIL

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Lead Officer | Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny | |
| Report Author | Rob Woollatt, Interim Departmental Finance Manager Andrew Matheson, Senior Commissioning Officer | |
| Version | Final | |
| Dated | 18 January 2022 | |
| Key Decision? | No | |
| CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER | | |
| Officer Title | Comments Sought | Comments Included |
| Director of Law and Governance | No | No |
| Strategic Director of Finance and Governance | No | No |
| Cabinet Member | No | No |
| Date final report sent to Scrutiny Team | 18 January 2022 | |

| Fund | Description/Purpose | Funding | Funding Source | How accessed | Who? | Decision Maker |
|--|--|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|---|
| Common Purpose grants | - Four year strategic partner grants - Two year community engagement grants All funding from the council to the Voluntary and Community Sector aims to achieve outcomes set out in the Common Outcomes Framework | £800,000 per annum | Annual revenue budget | Application | VCS Lists of all VCS organisations funded by the council are available on the open data page. | Cabinet Member |
| Cleaner, Greener, Safer | Grants for permanent improvements and physical items. Local people are invited to propose ideas and funding decisions are taken at public meetings of Southwark's five community councils. | £1,880,000 per annum | Capital Programme | Application | Individuals or constituted groups who live or work in the community council area where they are proposing the scheme. | Local councillors consider all shortlisted projects in their areas. |
| Devolved Highways Fund | A programme of capital funding used to improve the public highway infrastructure and enhance transport facilities. This includes minor improvement schemes, such as improved pedestrian crossing points or traffic calming measures, or street greening works, such as the introduction of trees and grass verges. | £800,000 per annum | Capital Programme | Application | Individuals, community groups or organisations who live or and work in the community council area where they are proposing an idea. | Reports presented to ward councillors |
| Neighbourhoods Fund | Community projects that make a difference to the lives and neighbourhoods of local people in Southwark. Applications must be ward based within the Empowering Communities area. | £630,000 per annum | Annual revenue budget | Application | Constituted local groups | Local councillors |
| Democracy Fund | A new fund to allow communities hold their own events, increasing opportunities to address specific local issues. | £20,000 per annum | Revenue Budget | Application | Groups and individuals | A panel of Community Champions (councillors) |
| Southwark Pioneers Fund | Southwark Pioneers Fund 2019 - 2022. The council wishes to support creative and entrepreneurial residents to start up, grow and lead their enterprises successfully, and enhance inclusive growth in the local economy. | £2,000,000 | Reserve | Application | Groups and individuals meeting eligibility criteria | Cabinet member |
| Black History Month | Events honouring the achievements, culture and history of African, Caribbean and diaspora communities in October each year. | £30,000 per annum | Annual revenue budget | Application | Constituted local groups | Cabinet member |
| Positive Futures for Young People Fund | The PFYPF is part of the council's Youth New Deal which followed a review of youth services undertaken in 2020. The Youth New Deal is committed to raise the profile of services in Southwark so that no young person is left behind and have positive lives now and in the future. | £750,000 | Reserves | Application | Constituted local groups | Assessed by council officers and members of the Youth Parliament |

| Fund | Description/Purpose | Funding | Funding Source | How accessed | Who? | Decision Maker |
|--|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|----------------|
| Southwark Emergency Support Scheme | The Southwark emergency support scheme (SESS) replaced the DWP social fund's crisis loans and community care grants. | £600,000 per annum | Annual revenue budget | Application | Southwark residents facing a crisis, emergency or disaster and needs help. | Officers |
| Southwark Emergency Support Scheme | Demand for SESS increased significantly during the pandemic and temporary changes were made to the scheme so those affected by COVID-19 could get urgent support. | £3,040,000 | Reserves | Application | Southwark residents facing a crisis, emergency or disaster and needs help. | Officers |
| Energy Support Grant | Grant support to low income and vulnerable households for help with energy costs over the winter. The grant is classed as local welfare provision and as a result the energy support grant policy will be an extension of the current Southwark Emergency Support Scheme. | £1,600,00 | Government Grant | Application | Must meet eligibility criteria | Officers |
| Hardship Fund | This scheme is designed to help people in debt with household bills. | £211,500 per annum | Revenue Budget | Application | Individuals receiving one or more disability related benefits | Officers |
| Southwark Scholarship Scheme | The Scholarship Scheme pays the tuition fees for high achieving young residents from low income families. | £2,156,000 | Reserves | Application | Must meet eligibility criteria | Panel |
| Voluntary Sector Transition Fund | The purpose of the transition fund was to enable third sector organisations to become more sustainable. The Fund was created in 2011 but no calls on fund since 2015. | £391,000 | Reserves | Application | Voluntary and community sector | Cabinet Member |
| Youth and Play grant | This is partnership strategy by the council, CCG and Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. It supports the delivery of the Activities for Children and Young People Strategy. | £500,000 per annum | Revenue Budget | Application | Voluntary and community sector | Cabinet Member |
| Culture Together Grants Fund | Grant funding for Southwark's arts and culture organisations to deliver activity that supports recovery towards a more sustainable and inclusive culture sector | £151,000 per annum | Revenue Budget | Application | Voluntary arts or culture organisation based in Southwark | Cabinet Member |
| Active Southwark Legacy Fund | This capital fund is being offered to local organisations to help increase the amount of sport and physical activity that people do on a regular basis, especially for people that aren't able to maintain an active lifestyle. | £2,000,000 over three years | Capital Programme | Application | Grants are available to constituted groups with the correct governance and structure (Tenants and Residents Associations, community interest groups, sports clubs, schools and local charities) | Cabinet Member |
| Events Grants | This is partnership strategy by the council, CCG and Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy. It supports the delivery of the Activities for Children and Young People Strategy | £95,000 per annum | Revenue Budget | Application | Voluntary and community sector | Cabinet Member |
| Resident Participation Fund - core grants for tenant and resident associations | To support tenant and resident community participation including community estate based events | £178,000 per annum | HRA | Application | Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs) and Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations (SGTO) | Cabinet Member |

| Fund | Description/Purpose | Funding | Funding Source | How accessed | Who? | Decision Maker |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------|----------------|--------------|--|----------------|
| Getting Involved Grants (HRA) | The Getting Involved Grants are grants up to £5,000 to run local projects and activities aimed at improving the wellbeing of people who live in council homes. | £272,000 per annum | HRA | Application | Tenants & Residents Associations (TRAs) and Tenant Management Organisations (TMOs) | Cabinet Member |

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MUNICIPAL YEAR 21-22

AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)

NOTE: Original held by Scrutiny Team; all amendments/queries to Everton Roberts Tel: 020 7525 7221

| Name | No of copies | Name | No of copies |
|--|--------------|---|--------------|
| Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members | | Officers | |
| Paper copy | | Aine Gallagher – Cabinet and Public Affairs Manager | |
| Councillor Victor Chamberlain | 1 | Pavle Popovic – Liberal Democrat Group Office | |
| Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall | 1 | | |
| Electronic Versions (no hard copy) | | | |
| Councillor Ian Wingfield | | | |
| Councillor Humaira Ali | | | |
| Councillor Peter Babudu | | | |
| Councillor Jack Buck | | | |
| Councillor Gavin Edwards | | | |
| Councillor Sarah King | | | |
| Councillor Margy Newens | | | |
| Councillor Victoria Olisa | | | |
| Councillor Leanne Werner | | | |
| Martin Brecknell | | | |
| Lynette Murphy-O'Dwyer | | | |
| Marcin Jagodzinski | | | |
| Mannah Kargbo | | | |
| RESERVES | | | |
| Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle | | | |
| Councillor Tom Flynn | | | |
| Councillor Eleanor Kerlake | | | |
| Councillor Sunny Lambe | | | |
| Councillor Richard Livingstone | | | |
| Councillor David Noakes | | | |
| Councillor Hamish McCallum | | | |
| Councillor Adele Morris | | | |
| Councillor Sandra Rhule | | | |
| Councillor Michael Situ | | | |
| Councillor Cleo Soanes | | | |
| | | Dated: January 2022 | |