

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 19 July 2021	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure
Report title:		Transitional Funding Food hub and bank Funding: For the Food hubs and Food bank that support the Southwark Community Support Alliance	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure approves the conditions of grant funding to fund seven food hubs and one-food bank as detailed in paragraphs 9-18 for the period April 2021 to June 2021 for a total sum of £89,840.
2. The £89,840 will be sourced from the support grant that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) provided: for those Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents. There are measures in place to ensure that support for these residents who need it can still be provided at the end of the period covered.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The cabinet agreed in October 2020 to implement the Southwark Community Support Alliance. As part of this agreement, there was an instruction to council officers to test new ways of providing housing, employment, skills, money, social care and immigration support in local communities. Including testing how support from established public & VCS providers can be made accessible in partnership with local community 'anchor' organisations such as food hubs rooted in each part of the borough.
4. As part of the Community Support Alliance there is a clear mandate to continue to achieve the following recommendations;
 - Recommendation 8 - Aligning plans for emergency food provision.
 - Recommendation 9 - Developing a common long-term approach to tackling food insecurity.

5. In December, the eight food hubs and one-food bank received £199,732 of council common purpose grant to support the logistics and supply to the local residents and communities for the period between October 2020 and March 2021. Also to continue to receive referrals directly from the Community Hub and support the non-shielding vulnerable residents.
6. With the third national lockdown occurring on 6 January 2021 until 31 March, this has put the food hubs under significant strain this period saw the highest amount of COVID-19 cases and deaths nationally. There were also an additional 15,000 residents added to the Shielding list / Clinically Extremely Vulnerable list (CEV). By the end of the lockdown on 1 April, the CEV list stood at 26,000 residents.
7. The now seven food hubs and one food bank are currently providing food to over 4,000 residents and 1,700 households per week.
8. The seven food hubs are the main providers and distributors of food for the borough. Beyond June 2021 the Southwark Food Action Alliance (SFAA) along with strategic support from Public health will maintain the support for these food hubs, and the rest of the food community. This will be done by utilising the Food Security funding that has been allocated.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

9. The total funding provided previously (£199,732) was for six months and for eight food hubs plus one food bank. Now with Time and Talent ceasing their emergency food provision there is now seven food hubs and one food bank that require transitional emergency food provision funding for three months.
10. So with the two key factors of one less food hub and funding for three months rather than six months, this will now mean that the total funding allocated is £89,840
11. The £89,840 will be sourced from the support grant that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) provided: for those Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) residents. The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in support of CEV residents during the national restrictions.
12. Within the: Guidance to Local Authorities on support to Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individuals V5.0 17 March 2021 - it states that all Councils should have plans in place, should shielding return and councils should prioritise plans and: Develop sustainable models of ensuring access to food locally.
13. Since the pandemic started, the Community Hub has made over 950 CEV referrals to the food hubs. However, it is difficult to understand what the exact figure is that were categorised as CEV and are still using the food

hubs. Also With the previous third and unexpected national Lockdown (January – March 2021), this brought additional requirements and demands on the Food Hubs.

14. Through meetings and discussions with the Food hubs in February 2021, it was found that the cost per food parcel per person, per week ranged from £40 - £120 per month. The MHCLG grant funding is £14.60 per CEV resident for a four-week period that was provided up to 31 March 2021. Therefore the MHCLG funding only provides between 12 - 37% of the real terms cost of a food parcel per person per month.
15. The MHCLG grant funding will be used to support:
 - a. Those that are CEV and are continuing to access the food hubs. This funding will not just be for the food parcels, but will contribute towards other additional expenses the food hubs incur by supporting these residents.
 - b. To ensure that the Food Hubs have sustainable models in place to respond to any further restrictions
16. The funding of £89,840 will be spent in the following ways:
 - a. £67,380 (75%) of the total funding to be provided as a one off upfront bulk payment for the now seven food hubs and one food bank. This funding is from April –June 2021. See figure 2 for the full breakdown.
 - b. The remaining 25% (£22,460) will be part of a funding grants programme, to allow the seven food hubs and one food bank to bid for funding for equipment, food provisions and projects that support sustainable food options. This will be provided before October 2021, to allow preparations for the winter. A funding criteria will apply, including providing data on those attending the food hub/bank and that they are aligning to this checklist:
<https://www.southwarkfoodactionalliance.co.uk/general-resources> .
17. This funding will be used:
 - To meet current demands on food provision.
 - To support residents in becoming more resilient, providing signposting, to access other means of support.
 - Implement long term sustainable changes to ensure the food hubs are able to manage long term.
18. As mentioned, this transitional fund of £89,840 will come from MHCLG CEV support grant. A summary of CEV spend from April 2020 to March 2021 is provided in Appendix 1. Figure 1 below shows MHCLG grant

funding that has been received and spent to date.

(Figure 1)

Funding received:	
December 2020 and January 2021	£240,939
February 2021	£251,318
Total	£492,257
Spend	
5 th November - 2 nd December 2020	£23,812
20 th December 2020 – 31 st March 2021	£345,169
Total	£368,981
Funding reserve	
Total	£123,276

19. For the proposed grant funding for April 2021 to June 2021 Officers consulted the food hubs and food bank on what their requirements are in regards to sustaining their food provision beyond June 2021. Then each food hub and food bank were sent communications on how the proposed transitional funding will be provided. Using 75% of the funding will be given as a one off upfront payment as shown below in figure 2. Then 25% will be allocated as part of a grants programme as described in paragraph 15. The food hubs and food bank all agreed to the funding proposals.

(Figure 2)

Food Hub	Proposed Transitional funding
Paxton Green	£10,357
St George the Martyr	£8,722
Pembroke House	£10,357
Albrighton	£6,607
Central Southwark Community Hub	£8,482
Pecan	£10,597
St Matthews	£7,522
Lewington	£4,732
Total	£67,380

Monitoring, outcomes and impact

20. With each Food hub and food bank they will be required to provide the following data each month:
- A summary description of the Funded Activities provided, such as the number of deliveries and food provisions.

- Summary information regarding the numbers, both individuals, families and number of households including the types of users that they are serving and providing too.
- Summary information regarding the full costs of providing the Funded Activities.
- Evidence of the benefits users gain from the Funded Activities, such as case studies or onward support and signposting.
- A summary of any problems or issues that they have come across in delivering the Funded Activities

Policy implications

21. The recommended funding is to principally ensure that the seven food hubs and one food bank are supported through to the end of June 2021. Which will allow the Community Support Alliance to build upon the successes and the partnerships built with the food hubs and food bank to provide social support that delivers long-term reductions in inequality.

Community impact statement

22. COVID-19 continues to impact residents and partners across the borough. As has been previously noted by cabinet the issues raised demonstrate, the full impact of COVID-19 on the borough cannot yet be known. This will become clearer in the months ahead. Some impacts may not be clear for some years.
23. The disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on vulnerable people and in particular on BAME groups. One such area of inequality is access to food. The Southwark Community Support Alliance is working closely with the Southwark Food Action Alliance to take forward a programme of work that responds to food insecurity that has been further exposed by COVID-19.
24. The wider social, environmental and economic impact on residents and the borough are significant. In considering, planning ahead for and mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on our borough the council, working with partners, will undertake the necessary work to more fully understand any specific implications on a particular group or groups of individuals in our community.
25. The Public Sector Equality Duty will be taken into account as we deliver services and respond to the continuing impact of COVID-19 on our borough as well as plan any changes to policy and operations arising from that impact. This will include more detailed identification of any vulnerable groups and individuals who may be in particular need of targeted support through the ongoing community support alliance.

26. There is an agreed food criteria and pathway for those in need and accessing food via the central community hub and the food hubs and food bank. This will be done via the usage of airtable. We are also insisting that all food hubs and food bank collect data and report on those accessing their services, from those requiring food as stated in paragraph 19. This will be shared with Community Hub officers on a monthly basis, to enable officers to review and analyse the impact that these grants are having on food insecurity.

Resource and financial implications

27. As stated in paragraph 10 and figure one the £89,840 funding will be provided by the Ministry of Housing, communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for the payment of £251,318 that has been received for the support provided for those CEV that were shielding in February 2021.

Consultation

28. The review of the community hub has involved extensive consultation with partners in the VCS and health sectors and with residents impacted by Covid-19. It has also involved consultation with officers across the council. Moving forward co-design with partners and residents is a key principle of the approach to meeting the needs of vulnerable residents.
29. As part of this grant funding and the previous grant funding provided, council officers have had a number of consultations and discussions with the food hubs and food bank to fully understand their needs to meet the demand on their services.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

30. The Localism Act 2011 gives councils a general power of competence with power to do anything that individuals generally may do. The ongoing support of the community support alliance as described in this paper is an exercise of those powers.
31. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, in making this decision the Cabinet must comply with its public sector equality duty which requires it to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
32. The community impact statement set out in the report identifies relevant matters to be taken into account in discharging that duty and confirms that there will be ongoing consideration of this duty in the continued operation

of the community support alliance.

33. The provision of grants to voluntary organisations of over £2,500 in value is an executive function reserved to individual cabinet members.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FIN1269 - JB)

34. This report recommends the approval of the grant funding conditions for the seven food hubs and one food bank to enable them to support those residents still accessing their services. Paragraphs 15 and 16 note the two separate purposes of the grant funding, to meet current food provision demand and allow the hubs and bank to make sustainable long term plans to transition their current service to a sustainable food model.
35. As noted within the resource implications in paragraph 26, the £89,840 is funded from central government through both specific funding allocations and the MHCLG claims process. The Strategic Director of Finance and governance in consultation with the Cabinet member for Finance and Resources will determine the most appropriate allocation of Covid-19 emergency funding to council priorities.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet paper 20 th October: Southwark Community Support Alliance Update	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=6663&Ver=4		
Cabinet paper 8 th September: Community Hub - supporting the needs of the most vulnerable	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=6662&Ver=4		
Papers of the review working group	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886
https://www.communitysouthwark.org/southwark-community-hub-one-stop-support-during-the-covid-19-coronavirus-crisis		
Fairer Southwark Food Plan	Communities Division, Environment & Leisure 160 Tooley Street	Stephen Douglass 0207 525 0886
https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/for-professionals?chapter=4		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Spend

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Daniel Hooper, Community Hub Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	19 July 2021	
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		19 July 2021