Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 10 August 2021	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Transport, Parks and Sport
Report title:		Approval of a new Active Southwark Legacy Fund to be allocated between 2021-25	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Interim Head of Service, Parks and Leisure	

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the Decision Maker

1. To approve the principles behind the application framework and decision making process of a new Active Southwark Legacy Fund (capital) programme for distribution between 2021 and 2025.

2. To assess and approve future panel recommendations to award funding for community projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Active Southwark Sport and Physical Activity strategy 2019-23 set out the ambition of the Council and local stakeholders to create more Active People, Places and Communities.

4. Creating and sustaining community sport and physical activity opportunities is challenging and so the creation of this new fund acknowledges that an important part of encouraging people to be more active more often is reliant on a vibrant local sport and activity sector being able to offer sessions at attractive facilities with essential equipment.

5. A £3 million budget was approved by cabinet in April 2020 for a capital investment fund to support the delivery of the Active Southwark strategy in a year that was due to have sport at the forefront of media (with the Olympics and European Football Championship).

6. The coronavirus pandemic prevented the international events from running in 2020 and has created new challenges to the sport and physical activity sector, with over a year of restrictions and closures. This fund will now play a role in helping clubs and communities to recover from the effects of the pandemic through physical activity in the borough.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The Active Southwark Community Fund of £2 million will be open for community applications over the next four years. Different amounts will be made available each financial year, as a guide this might look like:

    - 2021-22 - £225k
    - 2022-23 - £550k
    - 2023-24 - £550k
    - 2024-25 - £425k

8. The £2 million might support up to 250 projects over the planned four-year distribution period, transforming numerous activities and places to better host organised sport and physical activity across Southwark.

9. Each grant application will need to support the commitments of the Active Southwark strategy and demonstrate impact as defined through the Common Outcomes Framework or as agreed by the grant officer.

10. The core purpose of the funding will be to enable clubs and organisations to provide better environments to give great experiences that will inspire participation in activities, which will contribute to stronger communities. The types of use for capital spend could include:

    - Purchase or replacement of fundamental equipment (especially coming through the COVID period when minimising the sharing of equipment will help to reduce the spread)
    - Renovation, installation, and/or repair to existing pitches, MUGA's and other facilities
    - Making better use of technological resources to provide activity (remotely or in person)
    - Match funding for new builds or building redevelopments enabling access to venues by active modes of travel, e.g. bike racks.

11. A differentiating feature for this fund from the Cleaner Greener Safer capital fund is that applications will need to demonstrate how the investment will enable an increase in organised sport and physical activity delivery which in turn increases participation by residents that are insufficiently active to achieve the health benefits, most likely to be from key target groups:

    - Deaf and Disabled people or those with long term health conditions
    - Residents from lower socio-economic area / profiles including children and young people
    - Older adults aged 60 years and over
    - Females of all ages

- People from Black, Asian and other Ethnic communities
- Children and young people at risk of offending or re-offending

12. Successful applications will need to provide data on participation and gather information on wider benefits to people – e.g. health and wellbeing, happiness etc.

13. The grant will welcome applications from organisations that are looking for capital funding because of a need that has arisen from the COVID 19 pandemic.

14. The approval process will be open and transparent in delivery, with an advisory panel including external advisor/s (e.g. London Sport). The panel will agree on recommendations for funding to be assessed and agreed by the cabinet member for Transport, Parks and Sport.

15. The Active Southwark Community Fund will be made up of four funding levels – *Micro Grant*, *Small Grant, Medium Grant* and *Large Grant*.

Grant Size	Amount	Types of projects	Target Participants
Micro	£0 - £500	• Club equipment costs to help with a return to play for Southwark residents	10+
Small	£500 - £10,000	• Equipment to aid social distancing and Covid-19 mitigations • Equipment to help increase participant numbers • Adapted equipment to increase inclusion in activity. • IT equipment to support online delivered activity sessions for shielding/isolated residents	25-50
Medium	£10,000 - £50,000	• Installation of adapted equipment or improved access for Deaf and disabled people – ramps, hoists, signs, pool pod • Improving playgrounds / games court areas for organised community activity • Changes to schools building that create better community access – e.g. new entrances to the site • Changes to open spaces for physical activity – example installing a large screen showing workouts • Painting communal spaces	50-250
Large	£50,000 - £150,000	• Large scale facility development that will bring residents together • Building enhancements that benefit whole communities • Building development that will benefit whole communities. • Innovative improvements to spaces for physical activity	250+

16. Only micro, and small grants will be available initially to test the application process and to gather applicant's feedback and allow for

some development. The micro, small grants will have two application rounds in the first year with one medium grant application – all will be open for 4 weeks.

17. The large grant will have one application round in the first year and will include an expression of interest form to gather the outline of a proposal to select projects with merit before any extensive time is required by applicants. It will be open for 8 weeks.

18. A large grant application would need to deliver substantial long-term activities that benefit whole communities, multiple target groups, and have strong alignment to the Active Southwark strategy. At least 20% of matched funding will be required to ensure that there is a commitment from applicants to deliver the project.

    [Organisations needing match funding for larger grants or for revenue funding towards activities can be signposted to other grant opportunities and crowdfunding sites such as Space Hive.]

19. All applicants must provide a project plan (which outlines who is delivering the activity, how the grant funding enables/improves community activity) and a model of how this will be sustainable and does not require ongoing maintenance costs or investment from the council.

20. The plan is to encourage a broad range of community organisations to apply for the funding, and welcome new pioneering partnerships that grow physical activity across the community that contribute to the Active Southwark strategy.

21. Organisations that apply must be constituted and demonstrate that they meet the criteria as shown in paragraphs 22-24.

Table 1 – overview of 4 year grant programme

Year	**Small Grant (Including Micro)** **(Between £0-£10,000)**	**Medium Grant** **(£10,000-£50,000)**	**Large Grant** **(£50,00-£150,000)**	**Time frame** **(Small & Medium Grant)**	**Time frame** **(Large Grant)**	**Total Amount**
2021-22	£50K	£175K	£0	1-2 rounds	N/A	£225k
2022-23	£150K	£200K	£200K	x 2 rounds	x1 round	£550k
2023-24	£150K	£200K	£200k	x 2 rounds	x1 round	£550k
2024-25	£100K	£175K	£150K	x 2 rounds	x1 round	£425k

Funding Criteria

22. The grant criteria will help people to shape their applications to ensure that the funding awarded benefits Southwark residents appropriately. An application form and selection criteria will be created to enable funding decisions to be made. Initial points for the criteria are shown below:

- All funded projects must be delivered in the London Borough of Southwark:
- Applications must show a clear demand / need for the investment with supporting evidence (survey results etc.)
- Applications must have a strong commitment to being more inclusive of Deaf and disabled people with detail on how this will be achieved
- All funded projects will be required to record participation data and supply monitoring information showing the impact of the improvements
- Applications must address one of the Active Southwark strategy themes and have a clear stated outcome(s) for residents.
- Covid-19 related projects will have to demonstrate how the government guidance on return to sport and recreation has affected their ability to deliver and what difference the grant would make to the project.
- Provision of evidence of or a plan to obtain match funding for large grant applications.
- The project must help residents to be more physically active as a core aim.
- Activities that are created because of a grant should be free or charged to local residents at an affordable price, have no limitations on access including discriminatory or membership policies.
- Applications must support the commitments made by the council through the Southwark Stands Together agenda.
- Applications must demonstrate a sustainable delivery model that will not require ongoing / regular funding for maintenance or other costs.
- Applications must be from a non-profit making club / organisation, and re-invest any surplus revenue back into the sports club / organisation.
- Applicants must declare any other funding grants received and provide evidence of up to date accounts.
- Applicants must demonstrate how they will maintain a space receiving investment (opening and closing, community use, litter pick, safety etc.)

23. We will **not** support the following:

- More than one request from the same applicant within the same financial year, whether a grant was awarded or not.
- Activities that do not benefit people residing in the area.
- Commercial activities (e.g., where there is no public benefit).
- Religious activities.
- Statutory duties or medical or academic research.

- A school whose projects are solely targeted at their own pupils or students; activities provided must benefit the wider community (a guideline of 50% external participants is deemed acceptable).
- Political parties or lobbying groups.
- Grant-making bodies to distribute grants through a different process.
- Projects that dos not link to the Active Southwark Sport and Physical Activity Strategy and its intentions.
- Projects that do not relate to physical activity.
- Individuals as opposed to organisations. (Any individuals with an idea must work with a local community organisation to make an application).
- Organisations not established in the UK.
- Projects that have already received substantial funding from the council (this excludes any awards of match funding towards a larger project cost).

Applicant eligibility

24. In order to protect the council from fraudulent claims there will be eligibility criteria for applicants. Examples of the terms for this are listed below:

    - It is recommended that any sports or physical activity organisations should meet the council minimum requirements process as currently required by organisations using council facilities (e.g. has a constitution, safeguarding policy, insurance).

    - Grants are only payable to constituted groups with the correct governance and structure , e.g. Tenants and Residents Associations, Community Interest Groups, Sports clubs, Schools and Local Charities.
    - A set of accounts will be required to show the funds and income/expenditure for that financial year demonstrating a record of existence and sustainability.

Recommendation for approving applications

25. A panel will be created to review all applications that will consist of two council officers from the Physical Activity team and a representative from the sector such as London Sport and/or Community Southwark PLG for Sport. This gives a broad perspective on the applications being received.

26. The panel will make recommendations for funding based on a 0–3 point scoring system (0 – not eligible for funding; 1 – could be funded with more work; 2 –meets the criteria for funding; 3 - has exceeded all criteria).

27. Any project that affects a council or community asset will need comment from the relevant department(s) or organisation(s) stating whether they support it and if there are any implications for the project going ahead.

28. All recommendations for grant funding will be made to the cabinet member for Transport, Parks and Sport in subsequent reports.

29. The date of decisions on Active Southwark Legacy Fund applications will be listed on the Forward Plan.

30. Larger applications which are received as an expression of interest will be shared as a list of projects that are recommended to continue developing (or not) initially, with further updates on whether the project reaches a point when it is recommended for the full funding (or not).

Application System

31. The Legacy grant will use the Grants Management Software portal being used by other council services (Communities and Culture service) for grant applications. This will automate and streamline the process, saving officer time and providing access to information from any location (should home working continue).

32. Any applicants that will have difficulties in making a web-based application will be provided with the appropriate support so that this does not prevent a project from being submitted.

33. The first year of use of the system is free and thereafter a charge will be incurred and these costs will be factored into the grant budget

34. The Legacy grant will adopt the same terms and conditions for grant payments to successful applicants that are used by the council for other schemes – Cleaner Greener Safer, Culture grant etc.

Policy implications

35. The provision of the Active Southwark Legacy Fund supports the council's Fairer Future Promise Theme 5 to "reduce health inequality so that whatever your background you can live a healthy life".

36. The Fund is a key contributor towards delivering the Active Southwark Strategy theme of Active places - ensuring our streets, housing areas, open spaces and sports facilities are the best standard possible and receive ongoing development. Improving access to our community facilities, utilising more venues and spaces, and ensuring activity is designed into new development will maximise opportunities for physical activity and sport across the borough.

Community impact statement

37. There is a legal duty on local authorities to promote equal opportunities, eliminate discrimination and to promote positive community relations.

38. A core purpose of the fund is to get people not meeting the government guidance for physical activity to be engaged in projects that are developed or enhanced by this fund. People within the community most likely to be inactive are also likely to be most affected by COVID (see groups listed in point 11). As part of the application process the council asks organisations to estimate the percentage of their service users that will be from key groups.

39. Project applications for the Active Southwark Legacy Fund will come from the local community, the majority via a simple project nomination form available in electronic or paper format. Promotion of the opportunity will be circulated widely using the VCS sector and other community groups to ensure all communities know that they are able to access this funding. An equality analysis comprising a review of the geography and demographics of people that are benefitting from the fund will be undertaken annually and proactive steps to increase access by underrepresented groups will be planned.

Resource implications

40. A new capital budget was identified in 2020 – as mentioned in paragraph 5 (budget code L-2340-0424). The full costs of delivering this grant will be met by this budget including officer time (approximately £212,000 over the 4 years, and use of an online funding portal (used by the communities team, at a cost of £2,500 per year).

41. The marketing of the grant will use council communication outlets across the community – such as Ward forums/newsletters. It will not be allocated on a ward-by-ward basis as it will be allocated on the merit of a project and the benefits will need to serve people wider than the immediate local community.

42. Support maybe needed from other officers on more complex applications. This will be noted as a project cost and charged against officer time from any specialist teams (e.g. Planning advice).

43. Applications will need to demonstrate sustainability and address any new maintenance costs incurred. Therefore, there are no expected revenue implications to the Environment and Leisure department or other divisions because of funded projects.

44. Active Southwark Community Fund projects must be completed within designated timelines specified at the point of awarding funding (unless dispensation is given). Projects that are unlikely to be completed within

the time designated or subsequently cannot deliver what they had stated in the application will lose the funding and this will be made available for other applications.

45. Larger grants will require a longer period to develop due to complexities around consultation and planning, therefore funds will be reserved for a reasonable period, until an outcome is reached.

46. The total expenditure and sources of funding for the scheme will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall Capital programme.

47. Value for money will be ensured when the contract is procured by following the council's contract standing orders.

Consultation

48. Consultation with local community sports clubs and organisations has been delivered through the Community Southwark partnership group for sport/physical activity with attendance from the cabinet member for Transport, Parks and Sport – and by circulating information through a council held list of local sports organisations. The feedback from the clubs has been included in this report.

49. Feedback from the applicants in the inaugural round will be collected and reviewed to further improve the delivery of the grant for subsequent rounds.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

50. This report seeks approval of the proposals for establishing and administering the Active Southwark Legacy Fund (capital) programme for distribution between 2021 and 2025.

51. The decision to approve the recommendations is one which is expressly reserved to the cabinet member under the council Constitution.

52. The report sets out details of the aims and objectives of the Legacy Fund, which are consistent with corporate policy in this area. It also sets out a detailed explanation of the transparent and robust process which is to be carried out, both for the purposes of attracting applications from interested eligible clubs and organisations and evaluating those applications. Paragraph 48 confirms that steps have been taken to consult interested community clubs and organisations in order to inform the future development and delivery of the Legacy Fund.

53. The intention of the Legacy Fund is to engage all individuals and groups within the local community by offering the opportunity to apply for funding and to benefit from the projects which arise from the funding allocations; in

particular, those people who do not meet the government guidance for physical activity and/or are likely to be most affected by COVID-19. Paragraph 39 advises that an equality analysis will be undertaken annually in order to assess the beneficial effect and impact of funded projects on the community and to promote increased access by underrepresented groups. This aligns with the requirements of the council's statutory duty (the Public Sector Equality Duty) as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010.

54. Following the allocation of the Legacy Fund to successful applicants appropriate legal terms and conditions will regulate the various grant awards.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance – (CAP21/012)

55. This report is requesting the cabinet member for Transport, Parks and Sport to approve the principles behind the application framework and decision making process of a new Active Southwark Legacy Fund (capital) programme for distribution between 2021 and 2025 and to assess and approve future panel recommendations to award funding for community projects.

56. The strategic director of finance and governance notes that the costs of the proposed grant allocations will be contained within the departmental capital budgets for the "Active Southwark Community Investment Fund" project allocated under the council's capital programme, as mentioned in financial implications.

57. The total expenditure for the scheme will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall capital programme.

58. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing parks and Leisure division revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Active Southwark Strategy	www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/9405/Southwark-Council-Sports-Strategy-Document-2019-2023.pdf	Jardine Finn 07592 116894
Cabinet approval of Active Southwark Legacy Grant	Link to cabinet papers in April 2020	Jardine Finn 07592 116894
Southwark Common Outcomes framework	www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/5686/Common-Outcomes-Framework-with-KPIs-6-July-2021.pdf	Jardine Finn 07592 116894

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Tara Quinn, Interim Head of Service – Parks and Leisure
Report Author	Jardine Finn, Strategic Development Officer – Partnerships and Programmes
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Key Decision?	Yes

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	**Comments Sought**	**Comments included**
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member		
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		