

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 26 July 2022	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member Council Homes and Homelessness
Report title:		2021-22 Getting Involved Grants (GIG), part of the Resident Participation Fund (RPF) – ROUND 3 AWARDS	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Maurizio D’Antona, Grants Officer	

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Cabinet Member for Council Homes and Homelessness approved the Getting Involved Grants (GIG) programme recommendations for 2021-22, Round 3 for a total sum of £19,446 to fund nine projects by eight different organisations. Other three projects were rejected. The details are in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. In February 2020 Cabinet approved a series of recommendations to strengthen the way the council works with the people who live in council homes. The agreed recommendations opened up the council’s approach to resident participation so everyone who lives in a council home can get involved. The recommendations also shifted the resources that the council puts into resident participation back to the grassroots, giving residents more support and funding to do the things they want to do to improve their local estates and communities.
3. One of the recommendations allocated £900,000 to a new Resident Participation Fund, which replaced the previous single budgets: Tenants Fund, Homeowners Fund and Tenant and Residents Social Inclusion Grants (TRSIG).
4. The agreed recommendations also set aside £272,000 of the £900,000 new Resident Participation Fund for a Resident Participation Small Grants programme. Since 2020/21 the programme has been renamed the Getting Involved Grants (GIG), and replaces the previous TRSIG.
5. GIG allows residents and community organisations to apply for up to £5,000 to support revenue projects that bring people who live in council homes together and improve their wellbeing. These grants will fund projects and activities that primarily benefit people who live in council owned homes, regardless of tenure type.
6. The subsidies exclude capital schemes, favouring instead revenue plans. The projects should have a clear purpose and scope that comprehends any cultural, educational and sport schemes that actively involve the local residents.
7. The 2021/22 Round 3 (January 2022), application started with a virtual roadshow workshop, open to all likely applicants, to publicise the scheme. It was held on Teams, Wednesday 26 January 2022.

The workshop highlighted the following:

- Eligibility
 - The essential concept of the global benefit for the community
 - The functioning of the grant portal and a practical step to step guide on how to apply on line
 - Type of funding. Revenue (qualified for funding) versus capital (not qualified for funding)
 - Financial threshold
 - Raising awareness of and tackling estates' issue
 - Value for Money of the events/activities that should be reflected in the budget
 - Involvement of the residents
 - The monitoring return system, including outputs and outcomes
 - Q/A session
8. Officers have administered the programme and ensured that criteria is complied with and that there is no duplication with other grants programmes. They also cross referenced with the Neighbourhoods Fund or Cleaner Greener Safer Fund to ensure there would be no duplication of funding with these schemes.
9. The eligible applicants fall within these categories:
- SHUs, Sheltered Housing Units
 - TMOs, Tenant Management Organisations
 - TRAs, Tenants & Residents Associations
 - Also, SHUs/TMOs/TRAs can apply in partnership with service provider organisations, but the application must come from the SHUs/TMOs/TRAs, which have the overall responsibility for the scheme.
 - Constituted local groups that can evidence that the application has been developed by and for people living in council homes.
 - Where a SHU/TMO/TRA already exists but the application originates from outside these associations, it is expected that the applicant demonstrates the support from the mentioned associations to complete the application.
10. In addition, applications:
- Must be for revenue funding only (not capital). The maximum amount that can be applied for in a single financial year, is £5,000 for revenue costs only.
 - Must have a thorough description of the project
 - Must have at least two committee member signatures and one must be the Chair's.
 - Must include the recorded minutes of the Management Committee meeting when their application was discussed and agreed.
 - Must also include a copy of the SHU/TRAs/TMOs safeguarding policy and confirm that they, and any proposed Service Provider, are compliant with disclosure and barring service (DBS) legislation.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Panel Recommendations for the GIG 21/22 January 2022 third round

11. This time, our team tried to expand the publicity of the programme, particularly on social media and to reach out the single TRAs.
Twelve bids for funding were received and evaluated.

The varied proposals regarded a certain breadth of events, all with different pursuits and undertakings. This is a non-exhaustive list:

- After school activities
- Theatre
- Cultural happenings
- Summer fetes
- Parenting skills,
- Gang prevention workshops,
- Wellbeing classes.

12. For a detailed breakdown of projects, amounts applied for and amounts recommended please see appendix 1.
13. The Cabinet member is asked to consider the recommendations of the Panel and approve funding of the projects listed in Appendix 1.
14. In assessing the applications the Panel took the following into account:
 - There was a clear requirement from the residents for the project, that could be either brought up by the community or by the applicant
 - There was a real, concrete benefit for the community
 - The project was inclusive and encompassed on every citizen, with categorically no exclusions of all sorts, regardless of ethnicity, religion, age, gender, nationality and any other discriminating factor
 - Whether the costs submitted were reasonable and provided Value for Money (VFM).
 - The VFM, per unit, that is per user/beneficiary of project
 - The costs follow benchmark market comparisons
 - The number of stated beneficiaries of the scheme
 - The stages of the projects were manageable, and could have a reasonable duration
 - The claimant showed a certain sense of organization and sufficient human resources
 - The budget contained a breakdown of the cost items
 - Whether there was evidence that previously funded schemes making a new application had delivered expected outcomes and complied with the monitoring requirements.
15. Applicants will be advised that payments for any projects where face to face activities are included will be subject to the completion and submission of a COVID compliant risk assessment. This was visibly outlined in the roadshow workshop and it is explained in the application form, that contained a link to the government's website for the most up to date information.

Monitoring, outcomes and impact

16. Following the final approval, the applicant receives a forward funding payment that is a 50% instalment of the total amount. With the progression of the project activities, a midway monitoring form is sent to all claimants. The form shows the start date and the whole schedule, how the project was advertised, the main risks and opportunities, the description of the activities, the services offered and what are the benefits and outcomes for the community. Hence, the monitoring information should reveal how the project made an impact on the residents living in the area and that the public funds are being spent fruitfully and effectually. Also, the applicant will have to provide a breakdown of the

budget, and the timetable for the second part of the scheme's activities. A satisfactory monitoring info will trigger the payment of the second final tranche.

Policy framework implications

17. The projects recommended for funding principally target interventions and provide resources to tackle social problems linked to quality of life indicators. These are anti-social behaviour, social wellbeing, environmental concerns, poor diet/obesity, economic hardship and a general inequality suffered by tenants and residents. In the online workshop, applicants were invited to come forward with new ideas to resolve social issues and/or opening an insight into other drawbacks, such as littering, recycling, pollution. Theatre, afterschool classes, sport, food banks, gardening are among the various proposals.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

18. The sense of togetherness and the active involvement of the residents has a certain beneficial repercussion for the community.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

19. All projects have to fall within the criteria of community cohesion and interconnection, and ensure that all residents are involved, without any discriminating factor. Inclusivity centres on, but not exhaustively on gender, ethnic, national and religious minority background, all age groups, and disability.
20. The programme takes into account the protected characteristics of the Equalities Act 2010 and particularly given the circumstances that GIG was halted by the pandemic, it relies on the new agenda outlined within Southwark Stands Together in hearing from the residents and finding solutions together. To have a sound collection of statistical data, the grant portal portrays an anonymous equality and diversity questionnaire that claimants fill with every application. This expenditure round has an immaterial budget amount, so no socio-economic impact has been foreseen.

Health impact statement

21. The projects will give an opportunity to improve the general state of health, engaging in sport and exercise to improve fitness while tackling health problems as obesity and poor diet. In the same way, some proposals have stressed the importance of constructive focus on physical activities, particularly seemly for young people after the isolation of the lockdown.

Climate change implications

22. Apart from a coach trip, due to the non-fossil fuel nature of the projects, there should be no implications. and no bearing on the local environment.

Resource implications

23. GIG is managed within existing resources in the Communities division. The budget is ring fenced from the Resident Participation Budget part, of the Housing Revenue Account.

Legal implications

24. None

Financial implications

25. The grant recommendations of which the figure of £19,446 is mentioned in this report, are funded by way of a dedicated 2021/22 GIG budget of £272,000 within the overall Resident Participation Fund budget of £900,000.
26. Because of the socio-economic consequences of Covid suffered by the community and the TRAs, to revive the social fabric and to assist with a boost of the local economy and the TRAs, we have run three different application periods in this financial year. This is the third, concluding one. By this means, there will be more funding accessible for residents-focused projects.

Consultation

27. The establishment of the GIG programme was part of wider changes by resident participation agreed by Cabinet in February 2020. Said changes followed a period of almost two years consultation including an in-depth review delivered by an independent organisation, a residents' co-design panel and a three month borough wide consultation.
28. Last year's exceptional pandemic circumstances meant that the panel making recommendations on projects for the GIG grants was made of officers but this year the panel reverted back to being made up of residents and an officer. The grants panel had an online video call, instead of an in person meeting as in pre-Covid times.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

29. 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 although the council cannot to do anything which it was restricted or prevented from doing under that previous legislation.
30. The provision of grants from within the funds identified for the Getting Involved Grants (GIG) falls within the scope of activities the council can undertake under the Localism Act 2011.
31. Under the decision making arrangements set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution, the decision on the recommendation in paragraph one of this report is one that the cabinet member is able to take.

32. 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, marriage and civil partnership) and those who do not.
33. When making a decision on the recommendation in this report the cabinet member must actively consider the PSED. The community impact statement set out in the report identifies relevant matters to be taken into account in discharging that duty.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

34. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes the recommendation of the report and that existing resources are available to cover the recommended grants from within the Resident Participation Fund budget, with a further funding round later in the financial year.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Resident Participation Framework Cabinet Report	http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s86945/Report%20Southwark%20Resident%20Participation%20Framework.pdf	Yasmin White, Resident Involvement Manager, Environment and Social Regeneration 07874 882 786 Yasmin.White@southwark.gov.uk
Title of document(s) (Insert hyperlink here)	Title of department / unit Housing, Communities Division Address Tooley Street	Name Yasmin White, Resident Involvement Manager, Environment and Social Regeneration Phone number 07874 882 786
(Insert hyperlink here) http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s86945/Report%20Southwark%20Resident%20Participation%20Framework.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	GIG 21-22 Round 3
Appendix 2	Resident Participation Fund 21/22

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Cheryl Russell, Director of Resident Services	
Report Author	Maurizio D'Antona, Grants Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	26 July 2022	
Key Decision?	No	
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	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	25 July 2022	