

Item No:	Classification: Open	Date: 1 September 2022	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure
Report title:		Active Southwark Olympic Legacy/Community Grant awards – Round 2	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighbourhoods and Leisure approves the recommendations for 4 organisations noted in Table 3 below to be awarded £164,673 of funding to deliver their projects under the Active Southwark Community Grant scheme to support residents to be more physically active. The recommendations are set out in paragraphs 17 – 24.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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).
5. 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 increased physical activity in the borough.
6. From the £3 million capital investment fund, £2 Million was devoted to create the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant, and opened for the first round in November 2021. It will have further application rounds over the next three-year period.

7. The Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant is made up of four funding levels – *Micro Grant, Small Grant, Medium Grant* and *Large Grant*.

Table 1

Grant Size	Amount	Types of projects	Target Participants
Micro	£0 - £500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club equipment costs to help with a return to play for Southwark residents 	10+
Small	£500 - £10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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+

8. Different amounts were suggested each financial year as a guide, the funding amounts available each year are flexible depending on the number and quality of applications received in each round , this was originally suggested as:

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

9. Southwark Council sport and physical activity officers will support successful applicants to deliver their projects. Each organisation will also provide data every 2-3 months about their projects that shows the impact of the investment on the local community in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions of the grant award.

Round 1 summary

10. The First round opened on 16 November 2021 with an available budget of £225K and closed on 21 December 2021. Grants for Micro and Small grants were available to pilot the application process and to gather feedback.

11. In Round 1 the Physical Activity Team received interest from 28 organisations, with 9 applying, 3 meeting the criteria and were awarded £11,115 altogether.
12. The £213,000 that was available but not committed was carried over into 2022/23 allocation, making approximately £763,000 available.

Round 2

13. The second round grant applications were open for just over 10 weeks opening on 15 March 2022 and closing on the 19 May 2022.
14. The interest / applications received are summarised in the table below:

Table 2:

Enquires	47
Total number of applications	18
Applications that meet the criteria	12
Applications that do not meet the criteria	6
Total amount applied for	£926,761.96
Total amount being considered for awards	£860,161.96
Total predicted unique participants to benefit	2,413

15. An officer of London Sport and two Southwark Council Officers assessed the applications. This included the applicant's governance and the details of the proposed project to provide an overall score. Information is also checked with council colleagues in order to gain views towards projects, avoid duplication of funding, or understand issues that might affect revenue maintenance/budgets.
16. Organisations were scored against the following indicators:
 1. The Need for the project (taking into consideration any Covid related reasons)
 2. Increasing participation
 3. Number of people their project will target (cost per head)
 4. Inclusivity
 5. Track record
 6. Charging policy
 7. Sustainability
 8. How they will meet Strategy commitments.
 9. Their finance, does it all calculate correctly, is match funding in place where needed, do the figures seem realistic for the project.

Organisations recommended for funding.

17. After the panel assessment, 4 applications met all of the criteria and are proposed for funding through this IDM.
18. Another 8 applications are projects with potential, and council officers will have further discussions to gain greater insight of the details to further assess whether they can be funded. The total value of the grant requested by these applicants is £695,489.
19. Six applicants did not meet the criteria on this occasion and will be sent feedback in order to re-apply, or be directed to other more relevant grant opportunities.
20. The 4 projects to be awarded a grant by this IDM are shown in Table 3.

Table 3 - Applicants recommended for immediate funding

Name	Project Outline	Amount	Grant
Burgess Junior Parkrun	To providing Burgess Park Junior Parkrun with their own AED, to provide immediate life-saving first aid if needed.	£773	Small
Restorative Justice for all	To improve the community hub site in Rotherhithe by: (a) Make the gym accessible (b) Expand the gym (c) Improve the gym	£10,000	Small
Afro-Brazilian Arts & Cultural Exchange Institute	Purchase of soft flooring for their capoeira social inclusion project for children and young people in Elephant and Castle.	£3,900	Small
London Youth Sports Trust Limited	Improving the Griffin Sport Ground football pitch drainage in Dulwich, which is no longer functional and leaving pitches unplayable throughout much of the winter and summer season.	£150,000	Large
Total		£164,673	

21. The capital investment in all of these projects will enable better ongoing sport and physical activity for local residents, meaning the value for money will grow beyond one season, or even one year.
22. The 8 projects that will have further discussion with officers to prove suitability will need to evidence this within the next 12 month period. The council will have discretion to withdraw the application at any point during this period.
23. The six applications that did not meet the criteria were due to:

- The application was based on revenue funding to start a project, and would not have been able to run with an award of capital funding.
 - Organisations could not give a specific quote or clear explanation of how their costs were calculated.
 - Project plans did not provide enough detail on how they will engage new residents through their project, and how they would enable less active residents to become more active.
 - Their delivery approach did not match their budget proposal.
 - They were not a 'not for profit' organisation.
24. Once this document is approved, officers will be writing to all applicants on the outcome of their application. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing, and offered telephone feedback upon request.
25. Successful applicants will be designated a monitoring officer to work with them to help progress their project to the next stage of development, ensuring they meet relevant milestones and indicators for a successful project. Delivery is expected within one year of the date of award letter.

Improving delivery of the grant

26. Each round of the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant is used to learn about the grant application process so that improvements are introduced for future rounds.
27. The first round found that organisations applied for revenue spend in their application rather than capital. Subsequently more details have been shared outlining the difference between capital and revenue on the web site, through the grant portal, and email notifications to groups. A few groups still applied for a revenue grant in round two; therefore, it will be emphasized again.
28. One application was from a limited company, and the grant is only available to not for profit organisations. This is mentioned in the grant guidelines but will be emphasized for the next round.
29. A review of the neighbourhoods and organisations benefitting from the grant will be undertaken, with any underrepresentation prompting action by the council to address them.

Conditions of Grant Funding

30. Organisations awarded grant funding are subject to monitoring through the council's Conditions of Grant Funding (COGF). Schedules for these cover the key areas of governance, finance, safeguarding, health and safety, employment practices, monitoring and information. In complying with these conditions, organisations are subject to a visit, adoption of a framework and checklist, which assesses each of the areas covered within the COGF.
31. As part of this grant all providers will collect data about participants, and report on these. In addition to these conditions, organisations are required to provide a report in respect of financial commitments as part of a project that straddles

financial years. These reports shall be provided by the time(s) specified by the Monitoring Officer and should include:

- summary of the funded activities provided by the applicant;
 - summary of the participants; both on the numbers and demographic;
 - summary of the information regarding the actual costs for delivering the project;
 - summary of the outcomes achieved based on their grant application aspirations;
 - summary about the experience gained from delivering the project; and
 - summary of any issues that the organisation has come across in delivering the project.
32. Grant funded VCS organisations are required as part of the Active Southwark Community Grant to ensure all subcontractors and service providers pay workers the London Living Wage as a minimum. The council has achieved Friendly Funder Accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation. Living Wage Friendly Funders support charities to pay the real Living Wage that meets the cost of living through their grant making.
33. All council funded voluntary organisations have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. Whatever project they deliver, they must agree to comply with the Council's safeguarding policy. See <https://safeguarding.southwark.gov.uk> for more information.

Community Impact statement

34. This grant programme intends to provide support for the Communities that have been affected by the Pandemic.
35. As part of this grant all providers will collect data and report on those accessing their services and the benefits of the service to them.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

36. The Public Sector Equality Duty has been considered and no additional consultation is required.
37. The specification requires the provider to report on the demographic characteristics of all participants on a quarterly basis. The specification has been revised and written in line with the Southwark Stands Together and the Health Inequalities strategies. There are no negative impacts to amending this service identified.

Health impact statement

38. This funding aims to help organisations to attract residents and enable them to become more active. Physical activity is being championed by Public Health/CMO as a key pillar in helping people to prevent and manage several life limiting illnesses and conditions. It also supports wider wellbeing – managing stress, making friends, increasing confidence.

Climate change implications

39. The project organisations will promote a number of programmes that will promote physical activity through active travel and specific programme design, both of which can contribute to sustainable lifestyle choices. The wide offer across the borough including online access will reduce the need to use carbon emission travel.

Resource implications

40. This project will be funded through the Southwark Council allocation of Active Southwark Olympic Legacy/Community Grant.
41. Southwark Council sport and physical activity officers will be managing the grants project.
42. Each project will be allocated a designated monitoring officer to support the project and application.

Legal implications

43. See comments from the Director of Law and Governance at paragraphs 58 - 62.

Financial implications

44. The total proposed cost of this IDM is £164,673.
45. Further scoping work with another 8 applications might increase the awards by £695,489. This is still well within the total grant allocation.
46. The cabinet meeting of April 2020 approved the original budget allocation for this Capital Improvement grant, as referred to in Appendix 1.
47. The funding for this project is contained within the approved “Active Southwark Community Investment Fund” capital project (L-2340-0424).
48. The lifetime approved funding is £3m and with no prior year’s expenditure. The project is further split into 2 distinct elements which are Grants (£2m) and Southwark Direct works (£1m).
49. Current approved commitments are £182k against the Southwark Direct works element and £11k against the grants element.
50. On this basis the forecast expenditure is affordable within the current approved budget envelope for this scheme.
51. As part of the application process, each organisation provided a budget proposal showing the projected spend.

52. Southwark Council sport and physical activity officers will be managing the grants project.
53. Each project will be allocated a designated monitoring officer to support the project and application.

Consultation

54. Throughout the COVID-19, pandemic officers have continued to liaise closely with the VCS and clubs, including funded groups, on how they have adapted their services and continued to support vulnerable people, and on patterns of need and demand for services.
55. VCS were consulted with regarding the Grant, the grant process and application.
56. Two Funding workshops were held through the VCS to give organisations more information on the grant process and answer any questions.
57. Individual workshops were also held for organisations requesting further detailed information.

Supplementary Advice from Other Officers

Director of Law and Governance

58. This report seeks approval to fund 4 organisations (listed in Tables 3, page 4) for delivering projects funded by the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy/Community Grant.
59. Paragraphs 2 to 9 set out the details of the grant funded programme, which aligns with Southwark's Fairer Future commitments. Paragraphs 15 to 16 explain that a transparent and robust process has been followed in order to attract and evaluate applications for funding. Paragraphs 30 - 33 confirm how the recipient organisations will be monitored and the nature of the information and data relating to service users and service outcomes that they will be required to report to the council's physical activity officers.
60. The community impact and health impact statements in this report note that the grant programme is intended to target and benefit individuals and groups within the local community that have lower levels of physical activity. This is consistent with the requirements of the council's statutory duty (the Public Sector Equality Duty) as prescribed by the Equality Act 2010.
61. The decision to approve the Recommendation is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the council Constitution.
62. The funding allocations made to the successful applicants will be regulated by appropriate legal terms and conditions.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (CAP22/019)

63. This report is requesting the Cabinet Member for Equalities, Neighborhoods and Leisure to approve the recommendations for 4 organisations to be awarded up to £164,673 of funding to deliver the projects under the Active Southwark Community Grant scheme to support residents to be more physically active. The recommendations are set out in paragraphs 17 – 24.
64. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes that the costs of the contract will be contained within the departmental capital budgets for the “Active Southwark Olympic Legacy/Community Fund” project allocated under the council’s capital programme, as mentioned in financial implications.
65. The total expenditure for the scheme will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall capital programme.
66. Staffing and any other costs such as project management connected with these recommendations are to be contained within pre-allocated and existing parks and leisure division revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Active Southwark Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2023	Environment and Leisure Department	Jardine Finn
Southwark Sports and Physical activity Safeguarding policy	Sports and physical activity	Amala Poulter and Nicola Donnelly

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Cabinet paper allocating capital funds to Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Fund - Link to cabinet papers in April 2020

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Toni Ainge Director of Leisure, Environment and Leisure	
Report Author	Jardine Finn Strategic Development Officer – Partnerships & Programmes, Physical Activity Team, Environment and Leisure Jardine.finn@southwark.gov.uk Nicola Donnelly: Sport and Physical activity Officer, Physical activity team, Environment and Leisure, Southwark Council: Nicola.donnelly@southwark.gov.uk	
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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
Head of Procurement	N/A	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		1 September 2022