

Item No: N/a	Classification: Open	Date: 31 July 2023	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Leisure and Parks
Report title:		Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant awards – Round 3	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Leisure	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, Leisure and Parks approves the recommendations for 10 organisations, noted in Table 3, to be awarded £101,854 of funding to deliver their projects under the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant scheme to support residents to be more physically active. The recommendations are set out in paragraphs 19 – 25.

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. The creation of this new fund acknowledges that an important part of encouraging people to be more active more often is having a vibrant local sport and activity sector, with an attractive offer.
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, due to covid-related restrictions and closures. The fund will 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, (ASOL) and opened for the first round in November 2021. The remaining £1m was allocated to supporting investment in council sports assets within the local Southwark community.

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. Southwark Council sport and physical activity officers are supporting successful applicants to deliver their projects. Each successful organization is asked to provide regular data about their projects that shows the impact of the investment on the local community in accordance with the agreed terms and conditions of their grant award.

Round 1 summary

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. The £213,000 that was available but not committed was carried over into 2022/23 allocation, making approximately £763,000 available.

Round 2 summary

12. Round two opened on 15 March 2022 and closed on 19 May 2022 with an available budget of £763,000. We received interest from 47 organisations, with 18 then going on to apply.
13. From the 18 applications, four applications were awarded funding to the value of £164,673, and seven more projects were offered grants in principle, with conditions attached. 7 bids were non-compliant.
14. Out of the seven projects awarded funding in principle, following further discussion and work, Docklands Settlement was able to meet all of the outstanding conditions and has now moved to the funding stage, included in Table 3. One applicant has withdrawn their application.

Round 3 assessment and recommendation

15. Round 3 opened on 15 March 2023 and closed on 19 May 2023 with £847,500 available to award.
16. The interest / applications received are summarised in the table below:

Table 2:

Enquires	50
Total number of applications	25
Applications that meet the criteria	9
Applications that do not meet the criteria	7
Applications meeting the criteria but need further questions/ development.	9
Total amount applied for	£579,195
Total amount to be considered for awards	£69,949
Total amount for projects requiring further information	£273,290

17. 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 was also checked with council colleagues in order to avoid duplication of funding, and to understand issues that might affect revenue budgets/maintenance.
18. 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. Finance – is the budget realistic, is match funding in place where needed, etc.

Organisations recommended for funding

19. After the panel assessment, 9 applications met all of the criteria and are proposed for funding through this IDM. The total value of organisations being awarded is £69,949.
20. Another 7 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 £273,290.
21. Seven applicants did not meet the criteria on this occasion and they will be sent feedback in order to potentially re-apply, or be directed to other, more relevant, grant opportunities.
22. The 9 projects recommended to be awarded a grant by this IDM report are shown in Table 3 – along with one Round 2 project that is now ready for funding.

Table 3 - Applicants recommended for immediate funding.

Name	Project Outline	Amount
And fitness for all CIC	Funding for paddle-sports equipment (kayaks, paddles, helmets, buoyancy aids) to support a three-year "Zero to Hero" program, designed to provide disadvantaged youth in Bermondsey, Southwark, access to recreational paddle sports.	£9,460
Walworth Garden	Equipment for active gardening programme, includes an accessible composting area, parasols for protection from inclement weather, and a new set of adapted tools and equipment to support the learning of a wider range of groups.	£10,000
Wheels for Wellbeing	Use the funding to purchase new cycles and equipment, which will be used by disabled people accessing inclusive cycling sessions at Herne Hill Velodrome. This will seek new innovative non-standard cycles which are carefully selected to meet the needs of Disabled People accessing sessions	£9,168
South London Renegades	Purchase automated line painting equipment for American football pitch markings.	£18,764

Name	Project Outline	Amount
Just shred fitness	Equipment for community focused Intense Exercise classes.	£2,999
Heritage Charity London	After School Sports equipment and basketball hoops.	£8,608
Circus 250	Hoola Hoop and juggling skills equipment.	£500
Faiths women's community UK	Purchase of table tennis table for women's group.	£450
Supreme Fitness CIC	Equipment to be able to carry on weightlifting activities. This project require weightlifting bars, weights, platforms and mats.	£10,000
Docklands Settlement (Rd 2 project)	Replace the artificial turf pitch at the site, new roof net, and new mini soccer goal nets.	£31,905
Total		£101,854

23. The capital investment in all of these projects will enable better ongoing sport and physical activity for local residents.
24. The 7 projects that need to provide further evidence that they are viable, and meet the criteria, will be supported by officers, with further discussion to prove suitability. Evidence will be required within the next 12-month period. The council will have discretion to withdraw the application at any point during this period, if it has not proven possible to provide the level of additional information / evidence required.
25. The 7 applications that did not meet the criteria were due to:
- The application requested predominantly revenue funds, and would not have been able to happen with the 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 organization.
 - No security of tenure for a site stated; no lease or hire agreement in place.

26. Once approval to the grants is received, 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.
27. 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.

28. Each round of the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant is used to learn more about the grant application process, and community need, so that improvements are introduced for future rounds.
29. There was an increase in applications in round 3, with 25 applications, compared to 18 in round 2. Despite the increase in bids, the council has not been able to award a higher level of funding.
30. This was due to varying reasons:-
 - Projects not related to physical activity
 - Applying for revenue instead of capital
 - Unrealistic costings or project proposal
 - No security of tenure for a site stated; no lease or hire agreement in place.
31. Officers are reviewing ways of increasing capital grants into the community and will be implementing the following actions:
 - Offer specific workshops where participants can discuss initial project ideas and their suitability prior to and during the live rounds.
 - Work with marketing colleagues to identify new opportunities to increase the quantity of applications.
 - Explore broadening the grant criteria to enable community groups to seek funding for home ground facilities that might be provided by the council.

Conditions of Grant Funding

32. Organisations awarded grant funding are subject to monitoring through the council's Conditions of Grant Funding (COGF). This, and associated schedules, covers the key areas of governance, finance, safeguarding, health and safety, employment practices . In addition to complying with these conditions, organisations are subject to a monitoring visit, and the monitoring framework includes a monitoring checklist, which assesses each of the areas covered within the COGF.
33. As part of this grant, all providers will collect data so that they can report on uptake in their service/activity. In addition to these conditions, organisations are

required to provide a report at the times specified by the monitoring officer. The report will include:

- summary of the funded activities provided by the applicant
 - summary of the participants (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 encountered in delivering the project.
34. Grant funded VCS organisations are required, as part of the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy 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.
35. 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

36. This grant programme intends to provide support for the communities that have greater health inequalities.
37. 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

38. The Public Sector Equality Duty has been considered and no additional consultation is required.
39. 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

40. This funding aims to help organisations to attract residents into sport and physical activity, and to enable them to become more active. Physical activity is 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

41. 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

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

Legal implications

45. See comments from the assistant chief executive, governance and assurance at paragraphs 55 to 59.

Financial implications

46. The total proposed cost of this IDM is £101,854.
47. Further scoping work with another 7 applications may increase the awards by £273,290. This is still within the total grant allocation.
48. The cabinet meeting of April 2020 approved the original budget allocation for this capital improvement grant, as referred to in Appendix 1.
49. The funding for this project is contained within the approved "Active Southwark Community Investment Fund" capital project (L-2340-0424).
50. The lifetime approved funding is £3m. This is further split into 2 distinct elements which are Grants (£2m) and Southwark direct works (£1m).
51. Expenditure to date (previous and current financial year) is £537k with a further £327k of known commitments.
52. On this basis, the forecast expenditure is affordable within the current approved budget envelope for this scheme.
53. As part of the application process, each bidding organisation provided a budget proposal showing their projected capital spend.

Consultation

54. Throughout the process, officers have continued to liaise with the VCS and sports / community 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. Individual workshops were held for organisations requesting further detailed information.

Supplementary Advice from Other Officers

Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance

57. This report seeks approval of funding offers to 10 organisations (listed in Table 3 pages 4-5) for delivering projects funded by the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant.
58. Paragraphs 2 to 7 set out the details of the grant funded programme, which aligns with Southwark's Fairer Future commitments. Paragraphs 15 - 18 explain that a transparent and robust process has been followed in order to attract and evaluate applications for funding following allocation of the grants, and paragraphs 32 - 35 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.
59. 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.
60. The decision to approve the Recommendation is one which is expressly reserved to the cabinet member under Part 3D of the council Constitution.
61. The funding allocations made to the successful applicants will be regulated by appropriate legal terms and conditions.

Strategic Director of Finance (CAP23/019)

62. This report is requesting the cabinet member for neighbourhoods, leisure and parks to approve the recommendations for 10 organisations to be awarded up to £101,854 of funding to deliver the projects under the Active Southwark Olympic Legacy Grant scheme to support residents to be more physically active. The recommendations are set out in paragraphs 19-25.
63. The strategic director of finance 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 the financial implications section.

- 64. The total expenditure for the scheme will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall capital programme.
- 65. 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, Neighbourhoods and Growth Department	Jardine.Finn@southwark.gov.uk Amala.poulier@southwark.gov.uk
Southwark Sports and Physical activity Safeguarding policy	Sports and physical activity	Nicola.donnelly@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

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	
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CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
Head of Procurement	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
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