

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 09 March 2023	Decision Taker: North West Multi Ward Forum
Report title:		Cleaner Greener Safer 2023-24: Capital Funding Allocation (North West)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Borough and Bankside, Chaucer, London Bridge and West Bermondsey, St Georges	
From:		Head of Highways	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That the reallocation of underspent funds carried forward from previous years underspend, current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations be approved.
2. That the the allocation of funds for the 2023-24 Cleaner Greener Safer capital programme in the North West Multi Ward Area be approved from the list of applications set out in appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Council's Cleaner Greener Safer capital programme has been running since 2003.
4. £ 1.88 million has been allocated every year since 2003 for capital projects within the borough.
5. Funding is allocated to individual wards based on a per councillor calculation.
6. Examples of the types of projects that have been funded include:
 - Parks, community gardens, landscaping, tree planting and wildlife areas
 - Children's playgrounds, youth facilities, ball courts and cycle tracks
 - Lighting, security measures, pavements, streets, and tackling 'grot spots'
 - Grants to local groups to self-deliver projects

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. There is £ 234,300 available for the 2023-24 CGS capital programme for new projects in the North West Multi Ward area.
8. There is £15,734 in additional funding from previous years underspend,

current programme underspend and current programme project cancellations.

9. Eligible proposals must bring about a permanent improvement and make an area cleaner, greener or safer.
10. Proposals with revenue costs, including salaries, costs for events, festivals, workshops or other one-off events are not eligible for capital funding. CCTV proposals and internal improvements to housing property and works on schools where there is no access to the general public are also not eligible. Works on private property are not eligible unless there is a long-term guarantee of public access or a demonstrable public benefit.
11. The application form invited expressions of interest for the applicants to deliver projects themselves. A due diligence exercise to ensure that this is both practical and realistic has been undertaken as part of the feasibility process. In such cases, the council would give the funding allocation to the applicant in the form of a capital grant, with appropriate conditions attached.

Policy framework implications

12. The Cleaner Green Safer programme is fully aligned with the council's policies around sustainability, regeneration and community engagement.
13. The Cleaner Greener Safer programme fully supports and aligns with the council's Streets for People strategy which outlines the council's ongoing commitment to, and ambition for, healthier neighbourhoods, cleaner air, thriving town centres and safer roads.

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

Community impact statement

14. The roles and functions of Multi Ward areas include the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process and to take decisions about local matters.
15. The Multi Ward Forums have delegated authority in the following key areas: The Neighborhoods Fund, Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways capital programmes and community project banks.
16. An explicit objective within Multi Ward areas is that they be used to actively engage as widely as possible with, and bring together, Southwark's diverse local communities on issues of shared or mutual interest. The Cleaner Greener Safer programme is an important tool in achieving community participation

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

17. In fulfilling the above objectives of Multi Ward areas to bring together and involve Southwark's diverse local communities, consideration has also been given to the council's duty under The Equality Act 2010 which requires the council to have due regard when taking decision to the need to:
 - a. Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct;
 - b. Advance of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and those who do not share it;
 - c. Foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it.
18. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.
19. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity is further defined in s.149 as having due regard to the need of:
 - a. Remove or minimise disadvantages connected with a relevant protected characteristic;
 - b. Take steps to meet the different needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - c. Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under-represented.
20. When undertaking the duties under section 149 the council must ensure:
 - a. The duty must be fulfilled before the decision in question is enacted;
 - b. The duty must be exercised in substance with 'rigour and an open mind'; it is not a matter of ticking boxes and;
 - c. The duty is continuing; it does not end with the completion of any EIA and due regard must be had as policy evolves and is implemented
21. Ideas for CGS projects come from the local community, the majority via a simple project nomination form available in electronic and paper format.

Health impact statement

22. The following health benefits are possible or expected based on the types of projects normally funded via the Cleaner Greener Safer Programme.
23. An Increase in community assets in the public realm – providing more places for people to spend time in their local community. This has the potential to have a positive impact on social and mental wellbeing, by creating connected and cohesive communities.
24. Increased ownership over community public realm – this helps people within the community join together around a project, supporting connected and cohesive communities
25. Project examples such as parks, community gardens, landscaping, tree planting and wildlife areas may have the following impacts:

- a. Improve mental wellbeing by increasing access to the outdoors and nature
 - b. Improved access to affordable healthy food, supporting people to be more food insecure
 - c. Tree planting and green spaces may help to reduce or disperse air pollution, supporting people's physical health.
26. Projects such as children's playgrounds, youth facilities, ball courts and cycle tracks, encourage physical activity that has a huge number of health benefits including supporting people to achieve a healthy weight.
27. Projects such as lighting, security measures, pavements, streets, and tackling 'grot spots' support community safety.

Climate change implications

28. The allocation of funds in the North West Multi Ward Area towards the 2023-24 CGS capital programme actively supports the council's ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030.
29. It is also a decision aligned with the programme of work set out within the Climate Strategy and Action Plan, namely through priorities One, Two, Three and Five – Greener Buildings, Active and Sustainable Travel, Thriving Natural Environment and Renewable Energy.
30. By reallocating these funds, the council is continuing to invest in community led projects that reduce carbon and promote biodiversity. For example, the development of community gardens, wildlife areas and additional tree-planting all aid in the protection of local flora, fauna and wildlife.
31. Additionally, lighting upgrades taken through this scheme will look to improve energy efficiency and the development of cycle tracks through this scheme help residents transition towards active travel.
32. With all CGS spending decisions, potential carbon impact will be taken into account as part of the allocation process and where possible, officers should attempt to monitor and evaluate potential carbon emissions from individual schemes.

Resource implications

33. There are no additional staffing implications as provision will be made from the Highways Division to deliver the recommendations included in this report.

Financial implications

34. The funding for the CGS capital programme from 2011 to 2021 was approved by the cabinet and is part of the council's overall capital

programme as detailed in the Capital Programme 2011–2021 report dated 21 June 2011.

35. The allocation of funding per ward for the CGS capital programme was approved by the Cabinet Member for Transport Environment and Recycling as detailed in Allocation of funds to wards via Cleaner Greener Safer and Devolved Highways programmes report dated 20 December 2018.
36. The funding for the 2023-24 CGS capital programme was approved by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport Management and Air Quality as detailed in Launch of Cleaner Greener Safer Capital Programme 2015-16 report dated 6 August 2014
37. All professional fees related to the project are also treated as the capital costs of the project. Where projects are awarded as a grant to organisations, the award amount announced at multi ward forum includes professional fees. The multi ward forum award notification to grant recipients details the grant amount only, excluding these fees.
38. CGS projects must be completed within two years of award of funding. Projects that are unlikely to be completed within two years will be reported to Multi ward forum and available budgets may be reallocated to other projects. Revenue costs not covered by maintenance or the contractual liability period will fall upon the asset owner. The department will be notified of the likely costs before the schemes proceeds, in order to secure permission to implement the scheme.
39. After the defects and liability period, or three year maintenance period in the case of planting works, all future maintenance is assumed by the asset owner, for example Housing, Parks, Highways, or in some cases external asset owners. Therefore, there are no revenue implications to the Highways division as a result of approving the proposed allocation.
40. The total expenditure and sources of funding for the scheme will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall Capital Programme.
41. Value for money will be ensured when the contract is procured by following the council's contract standing orders.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance SC/02/22

42. Part 3H of the Council's Constitution provides that Multi Ward Forums can *'approve the allocation of neighbourhood funds, cleaner, greener, safer and devolved highway capital schemes of a local nature using the resources and criteria identified by the cabinet'*. The recommendations in this report are therefore appropriate for determination by the North West Multi Ward Forum.

43. The Council has a duty, pursuant to Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. Protected characteristics include age, disability, pregnancy and maternity. It is noted at paragraphs 15-19 of this report that officers have considered the Public Sector Equality Duty and have concluded that at this time the proposals will have no detrimental impacts on a particular protected group under the Equality Act.
44. The Human Rights Act 1998 imposes a duty on the Council as a public authority to apply the European Convention on Human Rights; as a result the Council must not act in a way which is incompatible with these rights. The most important rights for planning and highways purposes are Article 8 (respect for homes); Article 6 (natural justice) and Article 1 of the First Protocol (peaceful enjoyment of property). The implementation of these proposals which are the subject of this report are not anticipated to breach the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.
45. Council Assembly on 14 July 2021 approved a change to the Council's constitution to confirm that all decisions made by the Council will consider the climate and equality (including socio-economic disadvantage and health inequality) consequences of taking that decision. This has been considered in the report at paragraphs 12-31 above.

Strategic Director of Finance (CAP22/059)

46. This report seeks the approval of the North West Multi Ward area for the allocation of funds (£234,300 + £15,734 reallocated) for the 2023-24 Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) programme in the North West Multi Ward Area from the list of applications set out in appendix 1.
47. The Strategic Director of Finance and Governance notes the resource implications in the report and that the proposed allocations will be contained within the CGS element of the council's capital programme.
48. It is also noted that officers' time and any other costs connected with this recommendation will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Cabinet Report: Capital Programme 2011–2021 – 21 June 2011	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955

https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s20485/Cabinet%20Report%20-%2021%20June%202011.pdf		
Appendix F: General Fund Capital Programme 2011-21 – 21 June 2011	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955
https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s20521/Appendix%20F%20General%20Fund%20Capital%20Programme%202011-21%2021062011%20Cabinet.pdf		
Launch of Cleaner Greener Safer Capital Programme 2015/16 - August 2014	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4798		
IDM report – 20 December 2018 Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport Management and Air Quality	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50018979&Opt=0		
Cabinet Meeting Minutes 17 th September 2019	Neighbourhoods and Growth / Highways 160 Tooley Street	Craig Dove 020 7525 0955
http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g6415/Agenda%20frontsheet%20Tuesday%2017-Sep-2019%2016.00%20Cabinet.pdf?T=0		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	All North West Multi-Ward CGS Applications 2023-24

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Dale Foden, Head of Highways	
Report Author	Craig Dove, Senior Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	21 February 2023	
Key Decision?	Yes	
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
Climate Change Director	Yes	Yes
Public Health Team	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	21 February 2023	