

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 April 2024	Meeting Name: Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Report title:		Proposed awards of community partner grants to support delivery of the Sustainable Food Strategy	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet member for health and wellbeing approve the twelve community partner grants for 2024-25 to support delivery of the Sustainable Food Strategy up to a total of £117,936, as set out in paragraph 32.
2. That the cabinet member for health and wellbeing note that the proposed grants will help implement the Sustainable Food Strategy objectives including: a good food partnership, strong and connected communities, food security and the Right to Food, healthy people, healthy planet and a good food economy and affordable food offer.
3. That the cabinet member for health and wellbeing note that a proportion of the proposed grants (40%) will fund food-related support for older adults, a key target group of the Sustainable Food Strategy.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. In collaboration with Southwark Food Action Alliance (SFAA), the council developed its Sustainable Food Strategy which was approved by Cabinet in June 2023. The strategy outlines a vision of working towards a sustainable food system in the borough that improves the health and wellbeing of the population, reduces inequalities and protects the planet.
5. The strategy describes five priorities, with the collective ambition of reducing inequalities and close the gap in life chances in Southwark:
 - 1) **A good food partnership** – A good food partnership can help us to join up our efforts to improve the local food system.
 - 2) **Strong and connected communities** – A sustainable food system should bring communities together, helping people to build connections through food.

- 3) **Food security and the Right to Food** – A sustainable food system should deliver food security and nutrition for all. The principle of Right to Food advocates access to food as a basic human right and a statutory obligation.
- 4) **Healthy people, healthy planet** – A sustainable food system should enable **access** to good nutrition for health and wellbeing and have a neutral or positive impact on the natural environment.
- 5) **A good food economy and affordable food offer** – A sustainable food system should benefit the local economy, through good jobs, affordable food, community-led enterprises and healthy businesses.

Small Grants Programme & Older Adult Support

6. A grants programme will provide funding to new or existing projects that help deliver the five priorities of the Sustainable Food Strategy. Community-based organisations including charities, faith groups, community gardens and TRAs proposed projects based on key areas of the strategy. A proportion of grant funding has been ring-fenced for the relevant providers to develop food support projects that support older adults and facilitate social interaction. This follows a recent food security needs assessment for older adults in Southwark that highlighted a gap in provision for this population group, including residents who struggle to physically access food without additional support (and are ineligible for social care support).
7. Table 1 summarises the successful applications submitted to the council that include delivery of projects targeting older adults and other key target groups of the strategy.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. The application window opened on 30 November 2023 and 43 expressions of interest were received. Following two briefing workshops held on 7 and 13 December, 21 full applications were submitted by the deadline set on 3 January 2024.
9. Applications were scored by a four-person panel comprising of the Food Security and Sustainable Food policy officer, the Public Health Strategy manager, the Healthy Place Head of Programmes and a member of the Council's Community Team. A panel meeting to discuss the applications took place on 8 January 2024.
10. The decision panel weighted the following criteria to assess applications:
 - Alignment with strategy objectives
 - Feasibility of project and effective use of budget
 - Clear benefits for the communities served
 - Demonstration of intention to share learning with the wider network

11. Applicants were asked to indicate interest to extend or expand their project to a second or third year and explain the benefits this would bring to their project and delivery of the sustainable food strategy objectives. Should the council deem them good candidates for further funding, their project performance will be reviewed between months 6-9 of the programme and decide whether to extend or expand any of the existing projects as part of the next round of partner grants.
12. Organisations were also informed of the pre-requisites and expectations of successful applicants. Grants recipients will be expected to:
 - **Sign up to SFAA as a member organisation** – the programme is keen to support participants become members and contribute to development of a learning community and to have recognised the contribution their project can make to the aims of the Sustainable Food Strategy
 - Commit to attend a half-day **training module on the Dignity Principles** offered by the Food Partnership (may be after the submission), which helps to explore dignity issues in the food system
 - Include **wraparound support** within their offer by signposting and referring service-users to wider help and resources to address the root causes of their food insecurity
 - Attend an **event** or **group learning session** to share outcomes and learning with fellow grant recipients

Proposed organisations to be awarded a grant

13. From the 21 grant applications received, 12 organisations met the grant criteria and are recommended for a grant award. Proposals from eight organisations were either not up to standard or did not meet the criteria and one proposal was not scored as the organisation was ineligible.
14. Table 1 (below) lists the 12 organisations recommended to receive the grant funding and a summary of their proposals.

Table 1: Successful Applicants and Project Proposals

Organisation	Summary of Project Proposal
<p>1) Spring Community Hub</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of the 'Camberwell Kitchen', a new food resilience hub for older adults experiencing food insecurity and low confidence in cooking healthy meals. - The primary aim of establishing the hub is to enhance the wellbeing, social connectedness, and nutritional health of older people in the community - Project includes cooking workshops, a lunch club, development and distribution of educational resources and supported visits to the hub's social supermarket where nutritious food can be purchased at a subsidised cost <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older Adults - Residents experiencing social isolation and loneliness <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - St Giles - Camberwell - Peckham <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong track record of delivery - Excellent engagement of people from communities in need and minority ethnic groups - Well linked in with wraparound support services following delivery of an advisory hub - Emphasis on culturally appropriate food identified in the Food Insecurity JSNA as an area for development - Aligns with Partnership Southwark's Age Well prevention ambitions - Keen to share project outcomes with the wider network in the borough and promote collaboration and the potential for the replication of successful models and strategies.
<p>2) Pembroke House</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <p>Collaborative working with 1-2 businesses and 2-3 community chefs to co-design a pilot that will provide local chefs with the professional development support needed to establish new sustainable food enterprises</p>

	<p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local community - Potential business owners/chefs of sustainable food enterprises <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based in Walworth though acts as a Southwark wide resource <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emphasis on the sustainable food strategy area of good food economy, support local business and capacity builds - Strong networks to explore affordability of locally sourced and sustainable food options - Key partner in building collaborations and partnerships across the borough, for the purposes of sharing learning and best practice
<p>3) Kingswood Arts</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of a weekly breakfast ‘drop-in’ service - Residents will be supported to shop for foods at a discounted cost through bulk-purchasing and food sharing schemes - Offer also includes nutrition education, wraparound support and social activities. <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food insecure residents - Socially isolated residents - Children and young people <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dulwich Wood <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - High demand for community food projects in Dulwich Wood, a geographically isolated area in the borough that has a paucity of food provision, particularly healthy food. . - Potential opportunities to build upon the ‘culture and arts’ economy. - Trusted organisation providing support in the local community
<p>4) Blackfriars Settlement</p>	<p>Proposal:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of the 'Healthy on a Budget' cooking course for isolated, vulnerable and older residents - Participants to be upskilled around cooking nutritious food and increase their knowledge and confidence to use local services including food pantries - Participants to cook meals for up to 80 members of the community each week <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older Adults (50%) - Residents with severe mental health issues (50%) <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Borough and Bankside - Peckham - Walworth <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Well established provider with strong track record for delivery - Trusted organization providing support to vulnerable residents - Aligns with Partnership Southwark Live well prevention ambitions - Strong community reach
5) Copleston Centre	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of the 'Grow Your Own' food growing project in which food will be grown and harvested for Copleston's community café and seasonal socials - Delivery of the 'Copleston Cooks' workshops for older adults, themed around culturally diverse food <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older Adults - Food insecure residents - Residents experiencing poor mental health <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peckham - Camberwell - East Dulwich <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong partnership with local businesses and volunteers - Excellent community reach - Aligns with Partnership Southwark Age well prevention ambitions and Climate Change objectives - Emphasis on culturally appropriate food

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trusted organization providing support to vulnerable residents
<p>6) Surrey Docks Farm</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of the participant-led, community food growing project ‘Gardening for Wellbeing’ - Participants to learn how to grow food in small spaces whilst supporting and enhancing biodiversity, and gaining skills they can replicate in their homes - Offer also includes monthly cooking sessions from a new community kitchen and an opportunity to receive accredited training <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Residents experiencing poor mental health - Food insecure residents - Unemployed and residents on a low income <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based in Surrey Docks though serves residents borough wide <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An education charity and community hub as well as a working city farm - Aligns with Partnership Southwark Live well prevention ambitions and Climate Change objectives - A well-established provider with strong track record - Strong partnership with local businesses and volunteers - Excellent community reach via established referral routes
<p>7) Restorative Justice for All International Institute (RJ4ALL)</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of the RJ4ALL’s food poverty relief programme including a foodbank and community fridge, focusing on diversifying their cultural food offer and expanding hours of operation throughout the week - Launch of community kitchen and wellbeing café projects including monthly cooking classes and healthy eating workshops, hot meal provision to young people and seasonal community meals and events - To establish a community garden and food growing club and deliver weekly sessions for residents <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food insecure residents - Young people and families - Older adults <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rotherhithe - South Bermondsey

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Surrey Docks <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong focus on community engagement, empowering service users and increasing food resilience via an established wraparound support offer - Promotes intergenerational activities across their wide range of projects - Emphasis on widening their culturally appropriate food offer, food sustainability goals and reducing food waste
<p>8) Salmon Youth Centre</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of a meal provision project, with the aim of improving young people’s access to affordable, sustainable food and alleviating the financial pressures experienced by food insecure families. - Young people to be offered hot meals at a subsidised cost daily from the youth centre and will also offer a wide range of social activities - Funding will primarily be used for the chef’s salary who will also hold cooking and nutrition education <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people (6-16 years) - Food insecure families <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bermondsey <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong community reach and has supported a significant number of young people in the community - Emphasis on a healthy, affordable food offer
<p>9) RMUK Wellbeing</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and expansion of a culturally relevant food and wellbeing service supporting African and Caribbean communities. Offer includes the delivery of a weekly social supermarket delivery and befriending service where residents can access healthy, nutritious and culturally appropriate food at a subsidised cost - Offer also includes delivery of cooking workshops: ‘Cooking on a Budget in a Hurry’ and a pop-up community café that provides wraparound support and a hygiene bank <p>Target audience:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - African and Caribbean communities - Older adults, vulnerable and socially isolated residents - Young families - Food insecure residents <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nunhead & Queen's Road <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emphasis on a culturally appropriate food offer - Excellent partnership working with charities, local businesses and volunteers, and will collaborate with Acorn TRA to deliver proposed project - Strong community reach and linked in with the NHS (GP social prescribing services, Social Services and Citizens Advice) - Able to extend their offer by delivering food for housebound and older people
<p>10)Glengall Wharf</p>	<p>Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a food growing programme in partnership with Peckham Pantry. - Funding to be used to employ a lead food grower who can oversee the programme and establish community workshops, in addition expanding capacity to grow organic produce and offer to local community - Offer includes the launch of a cooking programme in which young people will be equipped with the relevant skills and knowledge to cook meals for older adults in the community <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Young people (13-18 years) - Older Adults - Food insecure and low-income families <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Based in Old Kent Road though acts as a Southwark wide resource <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An important borough-wide resource for local and borough-wide groups including community food growers and gardeners - Will create capacity to develop and increase training offer to residents and local groups - Strong emphasis on intergenerational work

<p>11) Christian Community of London</p>	<p>Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of the 'Global Table Fellowship' project with an emphasis on community building, nutrition and cultural exchange - The project will deliver lunch provision, interactive nutrition workshops and community engagement activities to address social isolation <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Older adults - Vulnerable and socially isolated residents - Hispanic community <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chaucer <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strong community reach and excellent engagement of communities in need - Commitment to community empowerment and resilience
<p>12) The Bridge Central</p>	<p>Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of a knowledge exchange project for inter-generational women to connect over food, cooking, learning and storytelling. - Participants to access the community café and kitchen space to learn how to cook new co-created culturally appropriate recipes and eat together. The group will also learn the basics of how to sow, grow and harvest one key fruit/vegetable per recipe cooked. - A 'recipe book' will be created with all co-created recipes, photos that record the project, stories linked to recipes. <p>Target audience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women (intergenerational) including those who are experiencing long-term physical and mental health illness <p>Target geographical location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Borough and Bankside <p>Rationale for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Key charity women's health and wellbeing charity in the borough with good community reach

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keen to work towards making the Bridge Central community café and kitchen assets for community-led enterprises and projects
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15. On approval, officers will be writing to all applicants on the outcome of their application. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing and feedback will be available upon request.
16. Organisations awarded grant funding will be subject to monitoring through the council's Conditions of Grant Funding (COGF). Schedules to these cover the key areas of governance and employment; finance; employment practices and monitoring and information.
17. As part of this grant all providers will collect data and report on those accessing their offer in terms of numbers and demographics, as well as details of the support accessed or benefits gained from involvement. Additional to uptake data we will also request process information to evaluate shifts in practice towards more sustainable and upstream approaches amongst partner organisations supporting the sustainable food strategy objectives.
18. Grant funded VCS organisations are required as part of the COGF to ensure all Outreach officers employed receive London Living Wage as a minimum.

Policy framework implications

19. The community partner programme grants are aligned to Southwark's Sustainable Food Strategy. This programme is an essential operational aspect enabling the council to effectively deliver the strategy in collaboration with community partners, and ensuring that groups and their respective proposed projects are on board with Southwark's vision of a sustainable food system in the borough to improve health and wellbeing for its population, to reduce inequalities and to protect the planet. The projects also align and support the delivery of other key Council and partnership strategies such as the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Partnership Southwark, local businesses and builds social capital.

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

Community impact statement

20. 'Strong and connected communities' is one of five priorities in the Sustainable Food Strategy, emphasising the role of food in strengthening community connections and sense of belonging.

21. The grants programme intends to provide support for community-based organisations and relevant providers that run services for older adults to develop new or existing projects in line with the Sustainable Food Strategy.
22. Recipients of a grant will serve their respective communities, many of which aid vulnerable and underrepresented groups. Organisations across the SFAA and wider network have the expertise and experience of delivering a wide range of services including food aid/support, community food growing projects, community cooking programmes and social meals. The grants will help these organisations develop these services, build social capital and capacity, connect local communities with Council, NHS and VCS services, making healthier food more accessible to the borough's communities whilst considering affordability and cultural needs for Southwark's diverse communities.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

23. The aforementioned priorities in the Sustainable Food Strategy have been set with the collective ambition of reducing inequalities and closing the gap in life chances in Southwark.
24. Inequalities, in particular those related to food insecurity, are prevalent in the borough, affecting residents from Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups, those on low incomes, people with disabilities and those who are socially isolated. As the cost of living crisis continues to increase hardship for marginalised groups, it is expected that the interventions delivered as part of small grant projects will benefit groups disproportionately affected by food insecurity, as well as provide additional settings to reach into communities for signposting and support offers.
25. This grants programme builds on the Sustainable Food Strategy for which an equalities and health analysis was undertaken in May 2023.

Health impact statement

26. The grants programme will comprise of various projects that address the health and wellbeing needs of the communities in the borough who are most vulnerable to food insecurity, which can lead to malnourishment, impede growth in development in children and increase the risk of mental health issues. Projects will also be devised for housebound and older people whose health can be particularly affected by malnutrition, in addition to social isolation and loneliness. The projects will support the prevention objectives in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and prevention aims of Partnership Southwark.
27. As proposed projects delivered will be in line with the Sustainable Food Strategy, providers will support their respective communities to access affordable, nutritious food, while helping them understand more about healthy and sustainable food options that can support both physical health and financial wellbeing.

Climate change implications

28. Organisations submitted proposals that specifically address the climate agenda within the Sustainable Food Strategy: 'Healthy people, healthy planet'. Developing a sustainable food system should have a neutral or positive impact on the natural environment. The projects support the implementation of the Climate Change Strategy.
29. As food is the second largest producer of greenhouse gas emissions, it is evident that diets need to change to prevent damaging effects to the planet. The council will continue to promote sustainable food via the strategy and engage with community groups who are focused on reducing food waste and encouraging consumption of seasonal, planet-healthy diets, helping to reduce gas emissions.
30. The organisations recommended for grants aim to demonstrate that increasing access to healthy affordable food can also benefit the local food system and help residents move towards healthier, planet-friendly diets; for example, by producing/growing food locally (shortening the supply chain and related CO² emissions, using surplus food to reduce food waste and offering cooking workshops and educational initiatives.

Resource implications

31. Programme to be resourced within staff structure and managed by Public Health Policy Officers.

Financial implications

32. Table 2 provides a cost schedule of the individual grants requested

Organisation	Amount Requested
Spring Community Hub	£9,932
Pembroke House	£10,000
Kingswood Arts	£10,000
Blackfriars Settlement	£9,726
Copleston Centre	£10,000
(RJ4ALL)	£10,000
Surrey Docks Farm	£8,440
Salmon Youth Centre	£10,000
RMUK Wellbeing	£9,976
Glengall Wharf	£9,904
Christian Community of London	£10,000
Bridge Central	£9,958
Total Cost	£117,936

33. The cost of this grants programme (2024-25) can be met by the Sustainable Food and the Place Team budgets. The estimated total value excluding VAT is £117,936.
34. The total grant value excluding VAT is:

	Cost excluding VAT	Cost inclusive of VAT
Sustainable Food Budget	£117,936	N/A
Revised total cost	£117,936	N/A

Legal implications

35. Please see concurrent report from the Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance.

Consultation

36. No formal consultation is deemed necessary at this time.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

37. This report seeks approval of grant allocations to twelve community partner organisations totalling £117,936 to support the delivery of the Sustainable Food Strategy for the 2024-25 period.
38. The report notes from paragraph 8 that a robust and transparent process has been undertaken to invite and evaluate expressions of interest and applications for funding.
39. The intention of the programme is to engage community-based and grass roots organisations by offering the opportunity to apply for funding and to provide benefits to groups who are vulnerable to and disadvantaged by food insecurity. This is consistent with the requirements of the council's statutory duty (the Public Sector Equality Duty) as prescribed by section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the needs of those individuals that possess a protected characteristic as defined in the Act.
40. The report further notes that the programme aligns with other statutory duties and powers and is consistent with current corporate policy in this area.
41. Following the allocation of the funding to the successful applicants appropriate legal terms and conditions will regulate the various grant awards.

42. The decision to approve the Recommendations is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under the council Constitution.

Strategic Director of Finance

43. The strategic director of finance notes the recommendations set out in this report seeking approval of twelve community partner grants for 2024-25 to support delivery of the Sustainable Food Strategy of up to a total of £117,936.
44. There is sufficient budget within the allocated available Public Health resources to fund the overall programme.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
November 2023 IDM Proposal for a community partner grant programme to support delivery of the Sustainable Food Strategy)	Healthy Place Public Health Directorate Children and Adult Services 1 st Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	George Christou 020 7525 3945
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s117182/Report%20-%20Proposal%20for%20a%20community%20partner%20grant%20programme.pdf		
Sustainable Food Strategy (and Right to Food Action Plan	Healthy Place Public Health Directorate Children and Adult Services 1 st Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	George Christou 020 7525 3945
Link: https://www.southwark.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/public-health/reports-and-strategies?chapter=4		
Sustainable Food Strategy 2023-26: Equality and Health Analysis	Healthy Place Public Health Directorate	George Christou 020 7525 3945

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
	Children and Adult Services 1 st Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	
Link: https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s114662/Appendix%203%20Joint%20Equality%20and%20Health%20Analysis-%20Sustainable%20Food%20Strategy.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director, Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	George Christou, Food Security and Food Sustainability Policy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	3 April 2024	
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
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		23 April 2024