

Southwark Council Voluntary & Community Sector Transition/Sustainability Fund

Recommendation.

1. To agree the criteria, process and timescale for allocation of the Transition Fund.

Background.

2. At its meeting of 25 January 2011 the Cabinet approved the draft budget proposals with a final balanced budget report to be presented to Cabinet on 8th February for recommendation to Council Assembly on 22 February 2011.
3. Included in the draft budget proposals is a £1.5m Transition fund over the next two years that will provide interim support in helping VCS organisations make the changes necessary to meet the challenges from reduced public sector funding and in order to develop a more sustainable sector.
4. This paper sets out proposals for criteria, process and timescales as set out below.

Decision Making Process

5. Assessment and recommendation of bids will be carried out by an advisory panel consisting of the CEO of CAS and council officers from various departments with the final decisions taken by the appropriate cabinet member.
6. Approval of grants over £2,500 under the community support programme is a matter for the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Equalities (Constitution: Clauses 2 and 5 Part 3D) and will be considered via individual member decision making (IDM).

Timescale

7. Indicative outline timescale is as follows:

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|------------------------------|---|
| 8 February 2011 | Cabinet agrees a final balanced budget |
| 15 February 2011 | Final budget agreed to be presented to Council Assembly |
| 16 February 2011 | Fund Advertised (subject to budget). CAS ebulletin. J4b. South London Press |
| 25 February 2011 | Deadline for receipt of completed applications |
| 28 Feb- 04 March 2011 | Assessment by Officers and Advisory Panel |
| 11 March | IDM report on decisions published |
| 21 March | IDM on awards taken (Note: this is earliest decision date, if the decision is taken later other timings will be adjusted accordingly) |
| 22 March | Notice of decision published and call-in period commences |
| 29 March | End of call-in period |
| w/c 29 March 2011 | Notification to successful organisations |

Proposed Criteria

8. This will be a **first round** of funding the criteria for which are as follows. A further round may follow later in the financial year.

Southwark council has established a sustainability fund for third sector organisations in the borough and is intended to help organisations which deliver high quality public services adapt to a changing and challenging funding environment during a period when they are at risk from reductions in Southwark council funding.

Are you eligible?

You can only apply for a Sustainability Fund grant if your organisation can meet **all four** of the following criteria:

1. You are one of the following third sector organisations:
 - a properly constituted voluntary and community unincorporated charitable association, registered charity, registered as an industrial and provident society, community interest company or a social enterprise
 - you are in receipt of Southwark council funding and you can provide evidence of reduction in this funding for 2011/12.
 - You have a longstanding relationship with and experience of delivering public sector services on behalf of Southwark council
2. You are based in and delivering the majority of your services in Southwark.
3. You are delivering frontline public services in one or more of the following areas:
 - infrastructure organisations
 - health and social care
 - tackling homelessness
 - education and training
 - welfare to work/employment services
 - children and families
 - debt counselling and legal advice.
 - arts and culture
 - environment and ecology
 - community safety
 - services for young people
4. You have evidence, or have substantial reason to believe, that between April 2011 and March 2012, your organisation will experience a significant reduction in Southwark council funding. Your free reserves could sustain your organisation for no more than six months.

Grant size: Grants will normally be less than £25k but in exceptional circumstances we may consider more.

NB: Priority will be given to multi-funded organisations which are likely to losing funding from more than one council funding stream.

What your grant can be used for:

- The funding is for activities that will enable your organisation to become more sustainable in the current climate and will include:
- Development of fundraising strategies/funding bids;
- Support with business plan development;
- Enabling development of mergers and collaborations;
- Enabling sharing of back office costs/shared services;
- Development of initiatives that will support third sector organisations to engage with the personalisation agenda;
- New models of service provision/innovation/ doing it more effectively and efficiently/ and realising savings.

Grant terms

The grant will be subject to the usual Council grant monitoring processes.