

Appendix F

Overview and Scrutiny recommendations on the budget

OSC recommendation	Officer Comment as at 16/01/2012
1. That the cabinet review the report and the descriptions of commitments in the appendices to ensure the use of simple and understandable language	Appendices have been reviewed for this report
2. That the cabinet consider and respond to the recommendations below prior to any decision being taken by council assembly	Comments on the recommendations are shown below
3. That the report to cabinet include detailed proposals on the setting up of the Community Restoration Fund, including criteria and process for assessment and award	Details of the Community Restoration Fund will be presented to Council Assembly in February.
4. That the cabinet review the £444k for additional unavoidable costs during the five weeks of the Olympic games and whether or not to take up the funding available from the government	This will be kept under review
5. That the cabinet seek assurance that the NHS will be matching the council's funding towards reablement	In 2011/12 the Council received £0.9m from the NHS to fund reablement services. In 2012/13 this increases to £1.8m. The conditions of this grant do not require the Council to provide match funding.
6. That the cabinet provide more detail on the Voluntary Sector Transition Fund in terms of awards to date, spend by individual organisations and evaluation processes	Further details are shown below.
7. That the cabinet clarify the formula by which changes in the fees at the South Dock Marina are to be increased	Mooring fees are proposed to increase by 2.34%. The Inner London average is not appropriate and instead the average has been derived from benchmarking exercise undertaken by an independent industry expert on comparable marinas.

OSC recommendation	Officer Comment as at 16/01/2012
<p>8. That the cabinet reconsider the balance between reactive street repairs and planned maintenance with a view to achieving the most sustainable position for the funding available</p>	<p>This will be kept under review</p>
<p>9. That the cabinet clarify the proposed reorganisation of the Southwark Anti Social Behaviour Unit and how the cut of £90k will be achieved</p>	<p>The Southwark Anti Social Behaviour Unit (SASBU) team will solely manage high risk cases of anti social behaviour</p>
<p>10. That the cabinet to set out the implementation plan for the London Living Wage and in particular how it will effect contracts in the upcoming procurement</p>	<p>With regard to future procurement processes, each bidder will be expected to base the staff cost element of their bid prices on the London Living Wage.</p> <p>The total cost of the initiative will be subject to contract as contracts are renewed over a four to five year period. Notionally, a further £1m will need to be set aside each year until 2015/16 and released to those departments letting contracts as necessary. Releases will be subject to contract, taking all other factors into account.</p>
<p>11. That the cabinet clarify how projects agreed within the cleaner greener safer revenue budget will be supported by officers and how this support will be funded</p>	<p>Administration of the scheme itself and the decision making process through Community Councils. The annual awards process and any monitoring that is required will be supported by officers in Communities, Law & Governance. There will be no reduction in the £210,000 available to cover these administrative costs.</p> <p>Ongoing management of the schemes awarded funding. Because the new scheme is a revenue scheme not a capital scheme the costs will all be included in the awards made.</p>
<p>12. That the cabinet clarify the reduction of £14k in funds used to provide emergency furniture for resettlement clients</p>	<p>Savings will be achieved through better procurement and changes in the specification of items purchased</p>

Voluntary Sector Transition Fund

Awards to date

In the first three rounds of the Transition Fund 43 awards have been made to 53 organisations. The total awarded to date is £742,584. A list of the awards made is attached below. The first payments of transition fund awards were made in April 2011.

Evaluation process

The Transition Fund is at an early stage with the first payments made towards end of April 2011. As the Transition Fund is about longer term sustainability it will be some time before full evaluation of its success can be completed.

There are a number of elements to the ongoing evaluation of the programme and of awards made.

Consultation was undertaken with Community Action Southwark and across council departments prior to the implementation of the transition fund and this informed the criteria agreed by cabinet and Council Assembly.

The initial assessment process, involved the Transition Fund officers applying a robust process of scoring against the criteria. This consisted of 3 stages designed to inform the final recommendations of the Advisory Panel which consisted of council officers from relevant council departments together with CAS as the designated voluntary sector partner.

Decisions not to progress groups through to the final stage recommendations were based on the following:

- Any organisation scoring a zero against one or more of the criteria
- Organisations requesting sums which exceeded the current overall level of council funding awarded to the organisation
- Organisations whose funding is not likely to reduce in the main or where reductions will have a lower impact on both users and the organisation
- Those organisations where council's decision-making process has yet to be formally signed off and therefore cannot provide evidence or give reason to believe that there will be a reduction in funding

The advisory panel were provided with information on all applications. None were excluded and a robust process of challenge of the scoring process was carried out at every stage. Community Action Southwark was involved in the process from the outset.

The advisory panel assessment was followed by recommendations to the decision maker (Cabinet Member for Equalities & Community Engagement). Applicants were informed of the recommendations and advised of their ability to make representations to the decision maker before the final decision was taken. A number of organisations chose to exercise this right.

The ongoing monitoring arrangements

During the initial application process applicants were asked to specify outcomes relating to the transition fund criteria which form a key part of the monitoring arrangements.

Because organisations in receipt of transition fund cross the council's departmental commissioning programmes a monitoring officer was agreed for each organisation from the appropriate department.

Key to the monitoring process is that it must be proportionate and not impose unnecessary burdens on the sector given the current financial climate while at the same time ensuring that the expenditure represents value for money and is effective in meeting the aims of the Transition Fund.

With the exception of service agreements and contracts, all revenue support to voluntary organisations is governed by the council's standard Conditions Of Grant Aid (COGA). A set of requirements, which all council funded groups are required to sign acceptance of and to adhere to. All such financial support is therefore governed by a set of monitoring guidelines that all commissioning officers are familiar with.

During the initial application process applicants were asked to specify specific outcomes relating to the transition fund criteria which form a key part of the ongoing monitoring arrangements.

Assessment of who has and has not applied to feed into targeting and promotion of the programme and the support being provided to organisations in submitting bids.

Officers are now reviewing which organisations that were affected by cuts in the councils funding have not applied for the Transition Fund. This analysis is not complete but will inform future rounds.

Equalities Analysis

Prior to each round of assessment of applications, an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been carried out analysing applications and awards made in previous rounds. The analysis considers applications and awards in relation to:

- Equality Act protected characteristics
- Departmental funding streams

The purpose of the EQIA is to assess whether there are differential equality impacts affecting different communities. The information obtained highlights instances where it appears that there have been a lower number of awards relative to the number of applications received for specific departmental funding streams. There are a number of different explanations for this. These include lower funding reductions compared to other funding streams (Supplementary Schools), reductions not taking affect until a later date (Community Support Programme, Supplementary Schools) and overlap with other transition funding (Health and Social Care Innovation Fund). The council also launched the innovation fund in October 2011 which awarded £200,000 to 11 groups. These are predominantly Health & Social Care Open Access Day Care providers, a number of whom have also applied to the Transition fund.

The EQIA findings from Rounds 1 and 2 have been taken into account by the assessment panel for Round 3 and used to inform the decision making process. The analysis shows that many of the organisations applying to the Transition Fund serve all sections of the community as well as individuals who come within one or more of the Equality Act protected characteristics. For a number of organisations no specific distinction is made. There are also organisations that target services at particular community groups. The EQIA has captured this information and where this applies analysis has shown that the protected characteristics most represented in both applications and awards relate to age, race, disability and religion/belief. Further EQIA analysis will be carried out at each stage of the Transition Fund so that

the cumulative impacts are considered. A breakdown of the applications received in Round 3 will also be incorporated into the EQIA in order to inform Round 4

Higher level discussions with the sector through the council/vcs liaison group and regular reviews of criteria with experience of previous rounds of scheme.

The Transition Fund has been a standing item on the agenda for discussion at the regular quarterly council/vcs liaison meetings and this is providing feedback from the sector on the implementation of the Scheme. Officers have also the criteria for the fund in the light of the following factors:

- the experience of running earlier rounds
- any representations made in the first two rounds
- the availability of and criteria for national funding

This led to an amendment to the criteria in Round 3 to respond to changes in the national picture and the severe pressures that the sector is under,. It was therefore proposed and agreed by IDM to add flexibility into the Southwark criteria in relation to national funding to give the discretion to allow awards to organisations where national funding has been awarded on condition that there was no direct duplication and the award of Southwark funding did not jeopardise any national funding.

Organisation Name	total	No. of organisations
Art in the Park	2,500	1
Black Business Initiative	10,000	1
Blue Elephant Theatre	19,800	1
Camberwell After School Project	10,000	1
Camberwell Arts	6,500	1
Cambridge House	15,000	1
Carl Campbell Dance	7,000	1
Carnaval del Pueblo	25,000	1
Contact A Family	25,000	1
Coral Dance Company	2,500	1
COVO Connecting Voices	21,000	1
Downside Fisher Youth Club	10,000	1
Dulwich Helpline	6,500	1
Eclectic Productions UK Ltd	16,800	1
Elephant Jobs	25,000	1
Faces in Focus	16,778	1
Family Action Southwark	25,000	1
Golden Oldies Community Care Project	10,000	1
Homestart Southwark	25,000	1
Kaleidoscope	10,000	1
London Bubble Theatre	15,000	1
Pecan	25,000	1
Peckham Settlement	3,000	1
PVSF	15,500	1

Organisation Name	total	No. of organisations
Red Kite Learning	25,000	1
Southwark Arts Forum	12,000	1
South Asian Elderly Organisation (joint award with Southwark Vietnamese-Chinese Community)	25,000	1
Southwark Consortium of Supplementary Schools. (note 1)	40,000	9
Southwark Cypriot Day Centre	8,900	1
Southwark Irish Culture & Arts Dev Centre	5,000	1
Southwark Legal Advice Network (note 2)	40,000	4
Southwark Mediation Centre	17,140	1
Southwark Playhouse Theatre	25,000	1
Southwark Refugee Communities Forum	25,000	1
Southwark Theatres Education Partnership	15,000	1
Southwark Vietnamese-Chinese Community	0	1
Southwark Young Carers	25,000	1
The Place2 Be	18,102	1
Theatre Peckham	15,000	1
Time and Talents	23,826	1
Toucan Employment	24,738	1
Volunteer Centre Southwark	25,000	1
Walworth Garden Farm	25,000	1
Total organisations		54
Total funding awarded		742,584

Note 1: Consortia of nine Out of School study support providers Southwark Consortia of Supp Schools. Ardhmeria. Aylesbury Academic Grassroots. Eritrean Community Centre. Latimer Educational Services. Lighthouse Supplementary School. St Michael Associates. Sierra Leone Refugee Welfare Association. Southwark Turkish Education Group. Youth Learning Network, Ltd; classes at The Goose Green Centre, St John's The Evangelist.

Note 2: Consortium of four organisations - Afro-Asian Advisory, Southwark Refugee Project, Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau & Southwark Law Centre.