

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 19/06/2012	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Resident involvement and resident association recognition and grants	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Overview & Scrutiny Committee	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet notes the recommendations of the brief scrutiny review of resident involvement and resident association recognition and grants, and asks Councillor Ian Wingfield, cabinet member for housing management, to bring back a report to cabinet, in order to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee, by the 25 September 2012 cabinet meeting.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Overview & Scrutiny Committee undertook a brief review of resident involvement and resident association recognition and grants in response to issues raised by local residents in respect of the resident involvement service.
3. At its meeting on 8 May 2012, the committee received a briefing note from the strategic director of housing, a copy of which is attached as an appendix. In addition to considering the briefing note, the committee received oral evidence from a number of TRA representatives.
4. The committee asked officers to circulate its members with additional information on:
 - the number of TRAs who made applications in 2009/10
 - officers' contact with all TRAs, in order to assist with the recognition and grant application process
 - TRAs who have not made an application for funding and recognition, in order to assist ward councillors with supporting local TRAs to complete an application, where appropriate.
5. The committee also asked officers to provide Councillor David Noakes with additional information on the status and activity of all TRAs in his ward in order to assist with support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. The committee's recommendations are listed below.
 1. That the application process for grants and recognition be made less complicated, less bureaucratic and more accessible.

2. That officers create an online application process to complement the paper based process, so that tenants' and residents' associations (TRAs) have options for making applications. This to be completed within six months.
3. That there be an emphasis on support for TRAs to make funding applications over the next few months, rather than on recognition, in order to clear the backlog of applications and enable organisations to receive funds.
4. That it be obligatory for a Resident Involvement Officer to attend every TRA AGM, and that officers use this occasion to assist TRAs in their applications for recognition and funding.
5. That TRAs create a standing item at every AGM covering the administration needed to complete the recognition and funding application process.
6. That the Resident Involvement Team be asked to consider how to work with ward councillors to support TRAs.
7. That a report on resident engagement be sent to the Housing Commission, Southwark Tenants' Council and Southwark Homeowners' Council.
8. That officers be asked to return to overview & scrutiny committee in six months' time to report on progress on the above recommendations.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee 8 May 2012	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peter Roberts 020 7525 4350

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Report of strategic director of housing - resident involvement and resident association recognition and grants

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Shelley Burke, Head of Overview & Scrutiny	
Report Author	Peter Roberts, Scrutiny Project Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	29 May 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	N/a	N/a
Finance Director	N/a	N/a
Chief Officers	N/a	N/a
Cabinet Member	N/a	N/a
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	29 May 2012	