

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 01 October 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling
<b>Report title:</b>		Launch of Cleaner Greener Safer 2014/15 Capital Programme	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Environment & Leisure	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment, and Recycling:

1. Notes the allocation of the Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) capital programme funds as agreed by Council Assembly for 2014/15 and agrees that the funding be allocated to Community Councils as per Table 1;
2. Agrees the integrated launch and applications process for the CGS capital and revenue programmes;
3. Agrees the timetable and decision-making process to launch the programme and allocate funds to individual projects;
4. Agrees that all directly related project management and implementation costs will be recovered from the overall CGS capital allocation and that a time limit will be placed on the projects of completion within two years of award of funding;

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. The Council's Cleaner Greener Safer capital programme has been running since 2003. The Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling has the power under Part 3D paragraph 2 of the Constitution to agree significant programmes. The decision on allocation to individual projects is delegated to the Community Councils.
6. In the first 11 years of the CGS programme £28,513,000 has been allocated to Community Councils leading to 1890 projects being approved and 1363 being implemented. The programme has proved very popular with Community Councils and the general public enabling a wide range of improvement projects to be delivered in partnership with the local community.

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'.

In 2013/14, 193 projects were allocated funding, and 125 projects from previous years remain to be completed making a total of 318 live projects. The target for

the delivery of 210 projects this year is on track to be achieved with an overall spend of £2,490,000. Further details on progress of current projects can be found at [www.southwark.gov.uk/cleanergreenersafer](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/cleanergreenersafer).

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Allocation of Funding to Community Council's**

7. Council Assembly at its meeting on 6 July 2011 agreed a revised annual allocation for the CGS programme of £1,880,000 for years 2012/13 onwards ,
8. It is recommended that, for 2014/15, the funding is allocated to Community Councils based on an equal division per ward, aggregated up for each Community Council area. This is the same formula as was used in 2013/14. The proposed allocations are detailed in table 1 below. This ensures that all areas of the borough are equally able to access the funds; it also ensures consistency with CGS Revenue funding that is allocated equally by ward as well. On this basis, each ward will receive £89,524.

Table 1. Allocation of CGS Capital to Community Councils

Bermondsey & Rotherhithe	£492,381
Borough, Bankside & Walworth	£447,619
Camberwell	£268,571
Dulwich	£268,571
Peckham and Nunhead	£402,857
	£1,880,000

Note – Livesey Ward allocation has been split half/half between Bermondsey and Rotherhithe and Peckham and Nunhead CCs.

9. As in 2013/14, all direct project management and implementation costs need to be contained within the budgeted amounts shown in table 1 above. Officers will include estimates of such costs in feasibility work when drawing up recommendations for Community Councils to allocate funds to individual projects.

### **Integration with CGS Revenue funding**

10. In 2013/14, CGS revenue and capital were brought together in a single applications process. Following feedback from Community Councils, indicated that this was successful.
11. It is therefore proposed that for 2014/15, as in 2013/14, there will again be a single application form and process for both funds. Applicants would not need to state whether their proposal was capital or revenue, this would be determined by officers during the technical assessment of submissions.

### **Timetable and Process**

12. In order to ensure that all Community Councils have allocated their funds for 2014/15 as close as possible to the start of the financial year, and being mindful of expected purdah for elections planned for May 2014, it is proposed to have a launch/applications and allocation process similar to that for 2013/14, including a public applications round. However, the dates of Community Council meetings

mean the programme will be compressed. This will reduce the amount of time applicants have to put in their bids, however it is not anticipated that this will create a significant risk of reduced level of applications given the publicity that will be carried out. The proposed timetable is summarised in table 2 below:

Table 2: Timetable

September 2013	public launch including announcements at Community Council meetings in September/October round
8 November 2013	closing date for nominations
Dec-Jan 2014	feasibility/scoping/shortlisting by officers
29 Jan – 12 Feb 2014	Community Councils allocate funds to successful projects

13. Applicants will be encouraged to apply online, hard copies of the application will be sent on request to individual applicants and will be available at public venues including libraries, one stop shops and schools.
14. The initial screening by officers of applications will include a 'policy test' to ensure that any application that is short-listed will deliver a project that makes the borough either Cleaner, Greener, or Safer, and that projects do not contradict overall council policy.
15. A range of publicity will be used, in addition to presentations at all Community Councils, to engage with as wide a cross-section of the population as possible during the launch process and thus encourage a wide range of applications. Officers will meet with Community Council chairs and ward councillors in February to review and shortlist applications for final decisions to be announced at the March Community Council. It is anticipated that each Community Council will, by the end of April 2014, allocate its full allocation to projects. Officers will, periodically through the year, seek approval from Community Councils as appropriate to deal with any under spend, overspend or changes in scope as in previous years.
16. Proposed publicity material and application form details are contained in Appendices 1 and 2.
17. As in 2013/14, the option will be open to applicants to seek funding in the form of a grant, to enable them to deliver the project themselves, rather than as a Council-delivered project. If the applicant requests this, then as part of the feasibility and short-listing process, officers will undertake a due diligence exercise to ensure that this is both practical and realistic. In such cases, the council would, instead of delivering the projects, give the funding allocation to the applicant in the form of a capital grant, with appropriate conditions attached to give the council confidence that the project would be delivered appropriately.
18. In 2013-14, a total of 460 applications were received for CGS funding. 196 of the 460 indicated they would like to be considered for a grant payment. This equates to 42.6% of all applications. All applications were considered by councillors at short listing meetings and those shortlisted were then assessed before the final report to Community Councils for decision on funding. At the feasibility stage, grant applicants were sent a simple form to complete to enable officers to assess eligibility to manage a grant. At this stage some applicants

requested their proposal continue to be considered but did not wish to receive a grant if successful. 53 of the 193 projects have been awarded as grants – 27.5% of all awards. Details of grant awards are shown in table 3 below.

Table 3: Grants as proportion of total allocation, 2013/14

Total funding 2013-14 CGS	£1,880,000	100%
Value of grants awarded	£329,269	17.5%
Average value of grant award	£6,213	

19. The grants range in value from £364 up to £30,000.

**Policy implications**

20. The Cleaner Green Safer programme is fully aligned with the Council’s Plan and Fairer Future principles of protecting the most vulnerable; by looking after every penny as if it was our own; by working with local people, communities and businesses to innovate, improve and transform public services.

**Community impact statement**

21. The roles and functions of Community Councils include the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process and taking decision-making closer to local people. Community Councils take decisions on local matters including environmental improvement and community safety as well as consultation on a wide range of policies and strategies that affect the area.
22. An explicit objective within Community Councils 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.
23. All ideas for CGS projects come directly from the local community via a simple project nomination form. Specific schemes will then be agreed at Community Councils and will reflect local needs and priorities.

**Resource implications**

24. The total cost of the proposal of £1,880,000 including fees, as set out in Table 1, equals the funds allocated for CGS in the Council’s latest approved Capital Programme for 2014/15. The actual expenditure against the allocations will be monitored and reported on as part of the overall Capital Programme.
25. The launch, short listing and allocations process will be contained within existing revenue budgets. All direct project management and implementation costs will be capitalised as part of the project costs.

**Consultation**

26. Consultation will be an integral part of the process to identify schemes through Community Councils following extensive publicity. No further consultation is deemed necessary for this decision although consultation will be part of the work undertaken to develop scheme ideas and determine the viability of individual schemes.

## SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

### Director of Legal Services (SH/09/13)

27. This report recommends that the Cabinet Member notes the allocation of Cleaner Greener Safer funds as well as determining how the funds will be split amongst the eight Community Council areas. It is also recommended that the Cabinet Member approves the timetable and decision-making process to launch the programme and agrees the simplified funding application process. The Cabinet Member's authority for these functions derives from Part 3D, paragraph 2 of the Constitution which states that the Cabinet Member has the power to agree the budget for significant programmes, and the Cleaner Greener Safer project would fall within that criterion as it relates to parks and street scene which the Cabinet Member has specific responsibility for.
28. The Cabinet Member also has responsibility for service planning and delivery for its portfolio areas and paragraph 6 of Part 3D gives the Cabinet Member the authority to set the strategy for its area of responsibility and paragraph 9 gives it further authority to agree priorities in the short and medium term which would include the power to launch the programme and agree the timetable.
29. The next stage of the process would be for Community Councils to approve the allocation of funds to Cleaner Greener Safer capital programmes of a local nature, which falls within Part 3H paragraph 11 of the Council.
30. The recommendations in this report comply with the Council's Constitution

### Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services

31. This report is requesting the Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling to note the 2014/15 capital allocations for the Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) programme as agreed by Council Assembly and agree the funding allocations to Community Councils as reflected in table 1.
32. The report is also requesting the Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling to approve the timetable and the process for application, decision making and recovery of project management costs for the CGS programme as reflected in recommendations 2-4 of this report.
33. It is noted that the proposed capital allocations are budgeted within the capital programmes for the Environment and Leisure department. Officers should ensure that project management costs capitalised should be accompanied by adequate supporting information. Staffing and any other costs connected with the proposals in this report to be contained within existing departmental budgets.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Capital Programme Report Council Assembly 6 July 2011	<a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=15402#mgDocuments">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=15402#mgDocuments</a>	Matthew Hill 020 7525 3541

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Proposed application form & poster
Appendix 2	Proposed poster

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Deborah Collins, Strategic Director Environment and Leisure	
<b>Report Author</b>	Des Waters, Head of Public Realm, E&L	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	26 September 2013	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional/Community Council/Scrutiny Team</b>	26 September 2013	