

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 13 August 2014	Decision Taker: Cabinet member for Housing
Report title:		Joint Security Initiative (JSI)	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing and Community Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the cabinet member for housing approves the 2014-15 Joint Security Initiative (JSI) programme grants awards to 20 organisations of £211,538 for 2014-15 detailed in Appendix 1.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The JSI is an annual budget for community safety initiatives, managed by Housing & Community Services department of Southwark Council. The broad criteria for allocating the budget are agreed annually in consultation with the Tenant and Resident Association JSI Panel (the Panel).

The broad aims of JSI are:

- To contribute to Housing & Community Services' delivery of the strategic objectives in the Council Plan
 - Input to the crime and disorder strategy by reducing issues that affect people the most, linked to the fear of crime and wellbeing
 - Involve residents in partnership working aimed at tackling local problems
 - Reduce barriers to involvement
 - Promote inclusion and cohesive communities
3. Eligible applicants are:
 - Individual tenant and resident associations (TRAs)
 - Tenant management organisations (TMOs)
 - Area housing forums
 - Service provider working with the above groups

The Review

4. A review of the programme was conducted in January/February 2014. As a result, the following have taken place:
 - JSI application form simplified and guidance notes prepared
 - A well-attended workshop on JSI took place in May 2014 with positive feedback on the value of the workshop and requests for this to be a regular aspect of the programme
 - The JSI Panel agreed in March 2014 that applicants can only submit application for full JSI funding (start-up applications will no longer be available). However, successful applicants can use a reasonable amount of

the award for publicity and events that are intended to reach potential beneficiaries

- A TRA or TMO can submit up to two applications to the programme but must make sure that the scheme proposed in one application is significantly different from the other
- Simplifying the signing off process for applications to make it more user friendly and less onerous by removing the requirement for residents services managers to sign as this often caused delays
- Bids must be for revenue schemes only. The maximum amount that can be applied for is £12,000 compared to £20,000 in previous years. This allows for more schemes to be recommended for funding.

Bidding categories

Bids should demonstrate how they will meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Tackling inequality
- Improve confidence and wellbeing
- Improve access to opportunity
- Improve cohesion
- Tackling anti-social behaviour

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. The programme was advertised on 25 April and the deadline for the receipt of completed applications for funding was 6 June. The JSI Panel facilitated by officers met on 18 June to assess 28 applications submitted to the programme.
6. 15 new applications were submitted to the programme by Tenants and Residents Associations who had never applied for JSI in the past (see Appendix 1).

JSI Panel Recommendations

7. In 2014/15, the Panel recommended the following:
 - 20 bids amounting to £211,538 for funding out of 28 bids submitted to the programme, compared with 17 full applications in 2013/14 with 14 recommended
 - 2 schemes for Wyndham & Comber with Southside for funding because of the size of the estates
 - 2 schemes for funding for Sceaux Gardens for different activities were proposed for each scheme
8. The increase in the number of applications and the number of new ones is attributable to the wide publicity of the programme and the well-attended workshop that took place in May 2014. As panel members can also be responsible for applications from their TRAs potential conflicts of interest may arise. These are dealt with by members declaring their interest in advance of any decision relating to applications submitted to the programme by their TRAs and abstaining from voting on the award of grant.

Activities in some of the schemes proposed are as below:

- Employment training
- Intervention for young people 18+
- Weekly peer mentoring
- Events to encourage youth to participate in TRA's activities
- Community learning programme comprising work-related skills
- Promoting opportunities for volunteering
- Activities to reduce anti-social behaviour in estates
- Encouraging residents living alone and isolated to participate in weekly activities with their neighbours
- Self-help groups for tenants who are unemployed and claiming JSA or ESA
- Dance projects for young people
- Saturday School for 4-11 years old
- Youth clubs
- Bike repairs workshop for youth

Policy implications

9. Selected JSI schemes principally target intervention and resources to improve social problems linked to quality of life indicators such as anti-social behaviour, social and environmental wellbeing and inequality for tenants and residents. For that reason importance is given to outputs such as building the capacity of TRAs, tackling barriers to employment or access to training, enabling, life long skills, crime prevention, reparation, diversionary measures, family support and early intervention, with focus given to young people (but not exclusively).

Community impact statement

10. The Panel consists of representatives from Tenants & Residents Associations in different parts of the borough. The Panel scrutinises applications to ensure that they meet the criteria and are likely to deliver the stated benefits. The involvement of the Panel strengthens the level of community participation in the assessment process and provides a level of community challenge and insight designed to deliver beneficial community outcomes. Representatives are drawn from Southwark's tenants' movement and reflect the diversity of the borough.
11. It is anticipated that the outcomes of JSI schemes will prove beneficial to tenants and residents of the estates and surrounding areas, particularly those from marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. The majority of proposed schemes in 2014/15 target young people and vulnerable households. Successful applicants are required to ensure that the governing body, all of its employees, commissioned or contracted agents and volunteers or adult participants are aware of their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
12. One of the main objectives of the programme is to promote inclusion and cohesive communities. The programme will advance equality of opportunity and help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. A majority of bids target young people who will be the most identifiable direct beneficiaries of the programme. Other members of the community and older age groups will also benefit where the activity is designed to promote inter-generational contact. There are also schemes targeting the older residents and tenants.

Consultation

13. Officers consulted with the JSI stakeholders who are mainly:
 - Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs)
 - Tenants Management Organisations (TMOs)
 - Area Housing Forums
 - The JSI Assessment Panel
14. Consultation methodology was:
 - Online survey
 - Circulation of the JSI review questionnaire by post, email, etc.
 - Presentation of the JSI review paper at eleven Area Housing Forum
15. The JSI review paper was presented at eleven Area Housing Forums. On average, eleven persons were in attendance. In attendance were Ward councillors, leaseholders, tenants and council officers.

The outcome of the review was widely circulated amongst the stakeholders.

Resource implications

16. JSI is managed as part of the duties of a Commissioning Officer in the Community Engagement division of the Housing and Community Services department of the council.

Financial implications

17. A budget of £211,585 is available in cost centre GG602 for 2014/15 to fund the grants recommended in this report. This is sufficient to cover the £211,538 recommended award for 2014/15 as set out in Appendix 1 of this report. This budget is situated within the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Legal Services

18. The Director of Legal Services notes the content of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services (11DKz14/15)

19. The Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services notes that the 2014/15 JSI programme's recommendations as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report is fully funded by an existing available budget situated with the HRA.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Summary of JSI Panel recommendations	Community Engagement division, Housing & Community Services, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Triumphant Oghre Extension: 57418

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	JSI 2014/15 – Funding Recommendations

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement	
Report Author	Triumphant Oghre, Commissioning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 August 2014	
Key Decision	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Housing & Community Services	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance & Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	13 August 2014	