

**Southwark Council: The Community Capacity and Environment & Ecology
Commissioning Programme**

Commissioning Plan 2015-16

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMME

- 1 The overall objectives of the Community Capacity programme are to:
 - Provide support for Southwark's diverse communities to build a fairer Southwark where people realise their potential.
 - Build capacity within the voluntary sector to enable it to play a full and effective role in the development and delivery of the priorities and objectives of the council's plan including the Medium Term Resources Strategy 2014-15 to 2016-17.
 - Develop and sustain multi-use facilities aimed at tackling social exclusion in deprived areas and neighbourhoods.
 - Support a sustainable and effective voluntary sector which demonstrates the capacity to modernise and innovate and to work in partnership with the council to address the needs of local communities.
 - To promote volunteering and support the development of volunteer champions within local communities.

- 2 These objectives fall within the council's overall objectives and priorities as set out in the council plan:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200493/what_we_do/3156/council_plan

and medium term resources strategy:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/278/medium_term_resources_strategy

They also support the council's approach to Equalities:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/2921/southwark_councils_approach_to_equality_delivering_a_fairer_future_for_all

in relation to tackling discrimination, promoting positive community relations and giving due regard to inequalities of outcome which may result from socio-economic disadvantage.

- 3 In 2014/15 the council's Environment & Ecology grants programme was brought into the Community Capacity programme. It was previously held with the Environment & Leisure Department. The objectives of the Environment & Ecology programme are to:
 - Improve the lives of people in Southwark through opportunities to experience parks, open spaces and the natural environment whether for leisure or for learning.
 - Provide services that deliver environmental education and life-long learning, social inclusion and community cohesion outcomes.
 - Develop the environment sector for the benefit of the people of Southwark, recognising the importance of the natural environment in regeneration and neighbourhood renewal, and improving the life chances of young people in the borough.

PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING THE COMMUNITY CAPACITY PROGRAMME 2015/16

A: Community Engagement

- 4 The council aims to support organisations that promote cultural, social, and faith activities in ways that bring communities together, and contribute to the development of confident communities able to play a full role in civic and public life; and to encourage people to take more responsibility for their lives.

Funded organisations should contribute to building mutual understanding and shared ways of working across different faiths, cultures, and ethnic identities. They should also seek to tackle deprivation with the objective of improving the quality of life of those communities.

The council aims to support organisations which are focussed on delivering the following:

- Removing barriers, for individuals and communities, to accessing public services.
- Promoting good relationships between communities.
- Supporting and enabling people to become active citizens. This could include being good neighbours, view givers, volunteers, members of community groups, involved in governance or community activists.
- Providing services that local communities need
- Contributing to ensuring that people from every community get their voices included when decisions are made

Organisations will be expected to demonstrate the following outcomes and how they will be measured:

- People better able to access public services.
- Improved relations between communities / improved community cohesion.
- People feeling a sense of belonging to their local community
- The voices of people from diverse communities are included when decisions are made

Funding will be prioritised for those organisations who are meeting multiple needs. In addition, organisations will need to provide evidence of:

- The capacity to provide advice at a general help level.
- How they will work with the main generalist / specialist advice providers to ensure accurate, up to date and good quality advice is given (for example, through supervision or working towards an appropriate quality mark).
- Organisations offering immigration advice should hold OISC registration (Office of the Immigration Service Commissioner Level 1).

B: Area Based Community Development

- 5 The council aims to make a contribution through funding to organisations that provide a core resource base for work that tackles social exclusion in the deprived areas and neighbourhoods in Southwark. It seeks to support a geographical spread of community resource bases within localities in the areas of greatest deprivation.

Organisations seeking funding should:

- Engage in, and contribute to local area and neighbourhood partnerships including forums and community councils
- Influence and contribute to developing communities at a neighbourhood level
- Promote relationships across diverse communities
- Provide capacity-building support for area and neighbourhood activities run directly by and for residents, and by smaller organisations

Organisations will be expected to achieve the following outcomes, and proposals will need to demonstrate how these will be measured:

- i) Strengthening local area & neighbourhood partnerships between agencies and with local people
- ii) Increased effectiveness of and engagement with local neighbourhood regeneration and renewal initiatives
- iii) Increased community activity & involvement as measured by the range and take-up of users and the development of cross community relationships.

SPECIALIST CAPACITY BUILDING / INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT

- 6 The council seeks to support organisations that build the capacity of the voluntary sector to enable it to play a full and effective role in the development and delivery of the Council Plan.

This priority was part of the programme in recent years. It will be covered by a separate commissioning process for 2015/16. Organisations will not be able to apply to the grants programme for this priority.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

- 7 Organisations applying under Environment & Ecology are required to demonstrate how they will address one or more of the programme's priorities.

A. A Greener Borough

One of the council's major priorities is to deliver a cleaner, greener and safer Southwark. The voluntary sector is a key partner in the delivery of this priority and the environment and ecology programme contributes particularly to the greener element. The council will fund projects that involve local communities in:

- Promoting sustainable practices
- Improving the borough's biodiversity
- Providing specialist services to Local Nature Reserves and nature parks
- Encouraging wildlife gardening and the reduction of pesticide use
- Interpreting the local heritage and environment and understanding human impacts.

Organisations should take note of the borough's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and consider initiatives that will help meet the BAP's objectives.

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200073/parks_and_open_spaces/534/southwark_ecology/2

Outcomes

Organisations applying under this priority will be expected to demonstrate which of the following outcomes will be achieved, and how they will be measured:

- i) An increase in the amount of publicly owned and/or community managed green space.
- ii) An increase in the use of sustainable practices within parks and open spaces within Southwark.
- iii) An increase in local biodiversity.
- iv) An increase in the number of individuals gardening sustainably and for wildlife.

B. Increased Usage and Community Management of Parks and Open Spaces

The council aims to increase the involvement of the community in parks and open spaces. In particular, the Parks Best Value Review, the Parks Business Plan and the Corporate Equalities Action Plan include the target to increase the use of parks and open spaces by disadvantaged groups.

The council will support initiatives that seek to:

- Increase the involvement of all sections of the community in parks and open spaces.
- Develop 'Friends of' groups.
- Raise the community's capacity for involvement in the management of local parks and open spaces.
- Build the capacity of voluntary sector organisations to undertake whole-site management.
- Provide training opportunities or programmes for volunteers that will increase the capacity of local people to undertake maintenance and management of parks or ecological sites.

Funding will be directed to areas of greatest need.

Outcomes

Organisations applying under this priority will be expected to demonstrate which of the following outcomes will be achieved, and how they will be measured:

- i) Increased involvement of minority communities in parks and open spaces
- ii) An increase in the numbers involved in 'Friends of' groups.
- iii) An increase in community involvement in the management of parks and open spaces.
- iv) An increase in local community organisations' capacity to undertake whole-site management of parks and open spaces.
- v) Increased use of parks and open spaces especially by priority groups.
- vi) Increased opportunities for volunteers and local people to obtain training and gain new skills to manage parks and open spaces.

C. Green & Sustainability Learning

We aim to improve the teaching of environmental and sustainability issues in Southwark's schools and to promote life-long learning for all of Southwark's communities. The council aims to support projects that:

- Provide curriculum support at the appropriate levels – pre-school, primary, secondary, special needs and post-16.
- Provide opportunities for children and young people to interact with the environment in a structured manner.
- Provide life-long learning opportunities for all in relevant subjects.

Outcomes

Organisations applying under this priority will be expected to demonstrate which of the following outcomes will be achieved, and how they will be measured:

- An increase in the number of children and young people taking part in environmental & sustainable development education initiatives.
- Improved environmental & sustainable development learning, evidenced by the gain of specific skills and accreditation.
- An increase in the opportunities for structured interaction with the natural environment.
- An increase in life-long learning opportunities.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA – THESE APPLY TO BOTH THE COMMUNITY CAPACITY AND ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY PROGRAMMES

- 8 Funding will be targeted at contributing to core costs that enable organisations to act as a local focus for the community and to lever in funds from other sources.

In addition organisations will be required to produce evidence of:

- Relatively high levels of need, and an understanding of deprivation levels, for the geographical area covered
- Development of premises:
 - That are accessible to all
 - That bring together a wide range of community groups
 - As a means of maximising income generation
- The provision of a wide range of services which respond to, and meet, local need and demand
- Evidence of a business plan and pricing structure
- A healthy ratio between voluntary and earned income – the grant applied for should be no more than 50% of earned income.

Funding will be targeted at contributing to core costs that enable organisations to act as a local focus for the community and to lever in funds from other sources.

Funding will NOT be provided for activities that fall directly within one of the council's themes and services (listed in Annex A).sources.

In addition to the above ALL organisations will be expected to demonstrate

- A balanced budget at the end of the previous financial year
- A current business plan
- Greater partnership working, rationalising back office costs, collaboration and merger
- Evidence of fundraising efforts
- That they are based in suitable, accessible premises, or working towards being based in such
- Potential to meet new and emerging needs
- Fitness for purpose

- Evidence of a diverse funding base, where the council is not the sole funder of an organisation (except in exceptional circumstances)

Requested funding should also be directed towards specific areas of work. As such the work to be funded should demonstrate

- Clear demonstrable outcomes, outputs and impact
- Innovation / transformation
- How it builds social capital.
- How it adds value, including partnership activity (eg community councils or other fora or networks)
- How the activities do not duplicate those of other organisations in the same geographical or service area

Funding will NOT be provided for activities that fall directly within one of the council's themes and services (listed in Annex A).

Please note that organisations will not be funded under these programmes if the council is the sole funder.

Premises

- 9 For organisations in occupation of council property to be considered for the Community Capacity Fund you must have a formalised and agreed occupation (such as a lease or tenancy agreement).

Deadline for submissions

- 10 Applications will be sought from all currently funded organisations together with new applications. The deadline for receipt of applications will be **Friday 24th October 2014**.

Funding Agreements

- 11 The council voluntary sector framework sets out that there should be a mixed economy of grants and contracts for funding the VCS. The simplified contract has been finalised and a threshold of £172,514 agreed which is in line with the European Union threshold.

Available Resources

- 12 For 2015/16 the council's budgets for funding the Community Capacity programme and the Environment and Ecology programme have not yet been determined and will be subject to the council's budget review process. For 2014/15 the budget for the Community Capacity programme was £1,145,467. This included a one-off transfer of £27,000 into the budget as a result of a reduction in the London Councils grants levy. The budget for the Environment & Ecology programme was £108,054.

The council is also committed to providing 3 months notice of funding decisions where necessary which will need to be factored into the budget.

Annex A:

The Community Capacity grant aid programme will **NOT** consider applications for funding for organisations whose main activities fall within the following theme/service-based programmes:

Advice Services (Housing & Community Services)
Arts and Culture (Environment and Leisure)
Community Safety (Environment and Leisure)
Early Years (Children's & Adults' Services)
Local Economy (Chief Executive's Department)
Public Health (Chief Executive's Department)
Social Care - Universal (Children's & Adults' Services)
Youth provision (Children's & Adults Services)

Each of these council programmes has its own arrangements and timetables for commissioning from voluntary sector providers, including through formal tendering.

For more information on these programmes, and on the commissioning process for the Community Capacity commissioning programme, contact:

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Annex B: Community Capacity Commissioning 2014/15

Community Capacity programme 2014/15	
Organisation	Amount funded 2014-15
Existing funded groups (Total 28)	
AAINA	32,073
Aylesbury Access Centre	27,485
Aylesbury Everywoman's Centre	18,000
Bede House Core Costs	17,378
Beormund Community Centre	92,999
Blackfriars Settlement - Core & Ctty Dev.	27,874
Cambridge House Core Costs	17,378
Cooltan Arts	15,000
Crystal Palace Development Trust	11,324
East Dulwich Community Centre	8,700
Forum for Equalities and Human Rights	28,000
Hourbank (Pecan)	34,315
Latin American Disabled People's Project	20,000
Local Accountancy Project	47,232
Org of Blind African & Caribbeans	20,421
Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum	41,051
Somali Integration & Development Association	61,500
Southwark Cyprus Turkish Group	9,300
Southwark Daycentre for Asylum Seekers	53,319
Southwark Muslim Women's Association	63,646*
Southwark Pensioners Centre	128,888
Southwark Refugee Communities Forum	37,000
Southwark Refugee Project	30,000
Southwark Viet/Chinese Community	39,539
St Faiths Community Centre	27,281
Time & Talents Core Costs	17,378
Time & Talents Over 60's Grp	5,339
Volunteer Centre Southwark	51,839
Wickway Community Centre	35,000
Working With Men	18,000
TOTAL	1,119,404
New group 2014/15	
Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum	23,000
(Southwark Travellers Action Group)	
TOTAL	1,142,404

* Please note only the first quarter's payment to SMWA (£15,911.5) was made.

Annex C: Environment & Ecology Grants 2014-15

Organisation	Amount funded 2014/15
Existing funded groups	
London Wildlife Trust - Centre for Wildlife Gardening	£42,500
Surrey Docks Farm	£56,951
TOTAL	99,451
New group 2014/15	
Groundwork London	£8,603
TOTAL	108,054