

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 April 2015	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Housing
Report title:		Approval of the 2015-16 Joint Security Initiative (JSI) Grants Programme	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards and Southwark estate residents	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing and Community Services	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the cabinet member for housing approves the Joint Security Initiative (JSI) grants programme recommendations for 2015/16 for a total sum of £168,970 to the 17 organisations detailed in Appendix 1.
2. That the sum of £68,565 yet to be allocated be approved for disbursement to organisations meeting the criteria as soon as is practicable in the current financial year.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The JSI is an annual budget for community safety initiatives, managed by Housing & Community Services. Applications submitted to the programme are assessed by a panel of residents who are nominated annually by Area Housing Forums. The panel then makes recommendations for funding to the relevant cabinet member for approval. The beneficiaries of the programme are mainly residents and tenants' resident on council's estates.

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
4. Eligible applicants are:
 - Individual tenant and resident associations (TRAs)
 - Tenant management organisations (TMOs)
 - Area housing forums
 - Service provider working with the above groups
 5. 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

- The JSI grants programme supports activities for residents that promote participation, inclusion and build cohesive and active communities by increasing opportunities for involvement. One of the objectives of the grants programme is to contribute to reducing crime, particularly amongst young people. A broader objective is to promote wellbeing and the range of activities and beneficiaries of the grants programme proposed indicates that the programme is delivering this for residents and tenants.
- Consideration was given to including the JSI grants programme within the new Neighbourhoods Fund. A number of factors were taken into account. The fund is well established with a particular model of service activity which involves TRAs partnering with a service provider to deliver activities. The other feature of the JSI programme which sets it apart from many other council grants programme is the specific role of the residents' panel in the assessment of the grant applications whose involvement puts them at the heart of the process. Merging the JSI with the Neighbourhoods Fund could have led to a perception that the role of the panel was being reduced. On balance it was decided that maintaining the JSI grants programme as distinct and separate from the Neighbourhoods Fund would be desirable for the reasons stated above.
- The programme was advertised on 9 February 2015 with the deadline for the receipt of completed applications of 16 March. A JSI workshop held on 19 February was attended by 22 people representing a range of TRAs and TMOs in Southwark. The JSI Panel facilitated by officers met on 26 March to assess 24 applications for the 2015/16 programme, including 11 applications from TRAs not in receipt of JSI during 2014/15 and 2 applications from TMOs.
- The geographical spread of applications received and proposed awards by Area Housing Forum are listed in table 1 below. Further details of the schemes are contained in appendix 1.

Area Housing Forum	Number of applications	Number of awards
Aylesbury	0	0
Bermondsey East/West	1	1
Borough & Bankside	1	0
Camberwell East/West	2	2
Dulwich	1	1
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	5	3
Peckham	8	5
Rotherhithe	3	3
Walworth East/West	2	1
Borough-wide	1	1
	24	17

- One borough-wide application has been received from South London Cares, an organisation working with the council to improve the health and wellbeing of residents by reducing isolation amongst older people. The aims are to increase the skills, confidence, resilience and connection of local people so that they can better navigate

the modern world and to bridge divides across social and generational lines. The focus of the activity will be Sheltered Housing Units (SHUs) with the delivery of additional new Social Clubs in SHUs and trips out for their residents – including film and storytelling nights, new tech workshops, business visits, games sessions, local history discussion groups, back to work days, dinner parties and more. The organisation is currently working collaboratively with 3 Tenants and Residents Associations in partnership with the Sheltered Housing services of the Council to progress these objectives.

11. Funding this scheme will also complement work that is going on within Community Engagement and through the Tenant Fund to increase the number of constituted associations set up within SHUs in Southwark. 2 have set up committees to date and have successfully applied to the Tenant Fund for start up grants. So far 8 schemes have taken up the offer of having officers come and talk to them about opportunities to set up committees and the support that is available to do so.
12. The total value of the applications exceeded the budget available but the total value of the awards is less than this budget. This is because the Panel decided that a number of applications either did not meet the criteria or had not provided all the information required. Officers will contact first stage unsuccessful applicants and offer feedback and support to those schemes where the main criteria were met but where additional information is needed. This will enable additional TRAs to meet the criteria and for additional funds to be disbursed within the financial year without the need for further advertisement.

Progress report on 2014/15 Schemes

13. In 2014/15, 20 schemes received JSI funding. Monitoring of the schemes and the outcomes of activities delivered to date indicate that taken as a whole the grants programme is achieving its objective of delivering targeted services that are well attended, appreciated and are delivering value for money in a practical way. In addition valuable partnerships continue to be created between TRAs and service providers resulting in strengthened communities at a local estate level.
14. The management of one of the schemes has decided not to continue due to circumstances beyond their control and funds have not been released for the second part of the year. Towards the end of the schemes in April or July 2015, the JSI recipients are required to provide the Commissioning Officer with a written report to include:
 - A summary of the funded activities provided
 - Information regarding the numbers and type of beneficiaries
 - Summary of full costs of providing the funded activities
 - Evidence of the benefit beneficiaries gain from the funded activities; and
 - A summary of any problems or issues that providers have come across in delivering the funded activities.
15. This requirement is in line with the Conditions of Grant Funding (COGF) that the relevant members of the management committee of the TRA or TMO have accepted and signed on behalf of the recipients of JSI.

JSI Panel Recommendations – 2015/16

16. The panel recommended 17 bids amounting to £168,970 for funding out of 24 bids submitted to the programme.
17. Activities in some of the schemes proposed are as below:
 - Homework and Film Workshop Club
 - Drama and Circus Classes
 - Weekly peer mentoring
 - Youth Summer Activities
 - Social Clubs in Sheltered Housing Units
 - 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
 - Youth clubs
18. The panel noted that the take up of JSI funding in the north of the borough was relatively low and that some of the applications submitted to the 2015-16 programme by the TRAs in the north of the borough were poor, and therefore unsuccessful. It is therefore proposed to run a further workshop in the north of the borough later in the year to support TRAs to make successful applications and to make the remaining £68,565 available for activities to be delivered in the second part of the year.
19. There has also been discussion with the panel about whether to change the name of the grants programme to more accurately reflect its role in funding initiatives that support community improvement and social regeneration rather than the current branding which emphasise security. Options are to change the name of the programme to Tenants and Residents Improvement Programme (TRIP) or Tenants and Residents Social Improvements Grant (TRSIG) with effect from when the programme is advertised in the future. This is in line with the proposal of the majority of those who responded to a survey conducted on JSI when the council consulted with stakeholders in January/February 2014. It was the consensus of respondents that the name Joint Security Initiatives (JSI) does not best convey the nature of the programme.

Policy implications

20. 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

21. 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.

22. 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 2015/16 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.
23. 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

24. Officers consulted with the JSI stakeholders on programme priorities in early 2014. These are mainly:
 - Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs)
 - Tenants Management Organisations (TMOs)
 - Area Housing Forums
 - The JSI Assessment Panel
25. 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
26. The JSI review paper was presented at eleven Area Housing Forums. In attendance were Ward councillors, leaseholders, tenants and council officers.
27. The outcome of the review was widely circulated amongst the stakeholders and resulted in changes to the maximum amount that could be applied for and the ending of the JSI start up grant.

Resource implications

28. 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

29. The recommendations in this report are funded by way of a dedicated 2015/16 grants budget of £211,585 as well as £25,950 not spent in previous years that is being held in reserve, which amounts to a total available budget of £237,535.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Legal Services

30. The Localism Act 2011 enables the Council to do anything that individuals generally may do, which would include incurring expenditure, giving financial or other assistance to any person or entering into arrangements or agreements with any person. This power can be used even if legislation already exists that allows the Council to do the same thing. However the Council cannot to do anything which it was restricted or prevented from doing under that previous legislation.
31. The provision of grants from within the funds identified for the JSI programme falls within the scope of the activities the Council can undertake under the Localism Act 2011.
32. Under the decision making arrangements set out in Part 3 of the Council's constitution, the decisions set out in the Recommendations section of the report is one that the Cabinet member is able to take.
33. The Council is under an on-going duty, in exercising all of its functions, to have regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, and advance of equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (such as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not. The consideration that the Council has given to the potential benefits of the proposed grants to particular groups and fostering good relations between groups, and the background of those participating in the awards process, is set out in the Community Impact Statement section of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services (01DKz1516)

34. The recommendations and funding arrangements set out in this report are noted.

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 2015/16 – Funding Recommendations

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass Head of Community Engagement	
Report Author	Triumphant Oghre, Commissioning Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	22 April 2015	
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 Finance and Corporate Services	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	22 April 2015	