

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 21 April 2016	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet Member for Housing
<b>Report title:</b>		Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant Programme (TRSIG) 2016-17, formerly JSI	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All wards and Southwark estate residents	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet member for housing approves the Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant programme recommendations for 2016-17 for a total sum of £180,000 to the 27 organisations detailed in appendix 1.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant (TRSIG) is an annual grants programme specifically for the provision of services and activities on council estates for the benefit of tenants and residents. The Tenants & Residents Social Improvements Grant Panel is responsible for the assessment of the applications submitted to this programme and for making recommendations to fund.
3. The programme was established following Southwark's Tenants Conference held in 1999. The TRSIG budget is associated with the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), meaning it can only be allocated for schemes run or run on behalf of the Tenants & Residents Associations (TRAs) and Tenants Management Organisations (TMOs) for the benefit of the tenants and residents of council estates.
4. The programme was originally intended to fund schemes that:
  - Tackle inequalities
  - Improve confidence and wellbeing
  - Improve access to opportunity
  - Improve cohesion
  - Tackle anti-social behaviour
5. The name of the TRSIG programme reflects its role in funding initiatives that support community improvement and social regeneration rather than Joint Security Initiative (JSI) which emphasised security.
6. The priorities of the programme have now been simplified and made more specific, enabling applicants to design a scheme(s) with particular potential beneficiaries in mind. Therefore an applicant is able to target children, young people, people who are economically inactive, or the older generation.

7. TRSIG grants programme criteria are broad and enabling in their objectives and are:
  - Activities intended to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, particularly among youth
  - After-school activities for children
  - Activities to alleviate isolation and loneliness among the older generation living on council estates
  - Activities intended to equip tenants and residents for volunteering and employment.
8. Eligible applicants are:
  - Tenants and residents associations
  - Tenants management organisations
  - Service providers working with the above groups (not on their own)
  - Applications must be for revenue schemes only. The maximum amount that can be applied for is £10,000.
  - All applications must have at least two signatories; one of the signatories must be the chair.
9. Successful applicants are required to ensure the governing body, all workers and volunteers, contracted agents or adult participants are aware of their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **The 2016-17 TRSIG programme**

10. The programme was advertised on Friday 29 January. The deadline for the submission of completed applications was Friday 11 March. There were two well attended workshops (one in the south of the borough and the other in the north) on the programme. The purpose of the workshops is to explain the criteria of the programme, offer advice on completing an application, presentations by TRAs who currently run TRSIG schemes and answer questions from attendees.

### **TRSIG Panel Recommendations**

11. The total sum of the 41 applications received is £320,454. The panel recommended 27 applications for funding. The total amount of the applications recommended for funding is £180,000.
12. The panel in making its recommendations considered each application and whether the grant criteria were met. The panel members are drawn from Area Housing Forums and are TRA members. There is therefore the potential for conflicts of interest when considering applications. Panel members are required to declare where they have an interest in a scheme and following this, they take no part in the discussions relating to that application. Officers keep a record of the panel discussion, conflicts of interest and where further clarification of information is required to satisfy the grant criteria.
13. A number of applications were made for capital costs, one off events or consultation exercises. These were not recommended for funding as they do not meet the criteria. A further small number of applications consisted of repeat

applications from the previous year that had been unsuccessful because they did not meet the programme criteria. Again these applications were not recommended for funding. As the budget available is not sufficient to meet the total costs of those applications that meet the broad grant criteria, the panel took the following into account:

- Whether the costs submitted were reasonable
  - The number of stated beneficiaries of the scheme
  - Whether there was evidence that previously funded schemes making a new application had delivered outcomes and complied with the monitoring requirements.
14. Unsuccessful applicants are written to and given reasons why their applications do not meet the grant criteria. Feedback is offered with a view to building knowledge and awareness of the criteria and to enable other organisations to be funded in the future.
  15. By way of comparison with previous financial years in 2014/15, 28 applications were submitted and 20 were recommended for funding. In 2015/16 the programme was launched on two occasions (January 2015 and October 2015) and 28 applications were recommended for funding.
  16. It should be noted that the maximum amount that could be applied for in 2014/15 and 2015/16 was £12,000 per applicant compared to £20,000 in previous years. For 2016/17, the maximum is £10,000, mainly because the budget for the programme has been reduced by £21,000.
  17. The table below provides an overview of the number of awards broken down by Area Housing Forum. There has been an increase in the number of applications from certain parts of the borough and in particular in the Borough & Bankside and Camberwell areas. The number of awards per area is broadly speaking similar to last year.

**Table 1**

Area Housing Forum	Number of awards	
	2016-17	2015-16
Bermondsey East	1	2
Bermondsey West	1	1
Borough & Bankside	2	2
Camberwell East	3	2
Camberwell West	3	1
Dulwich	1	1
Nunhead & Peckham Rye	4	3
Peckham	5	6
Rotherhithe	3	4
Aylesbury	0	0
Walworth East	0	1
Walworth West	3	4
Borough wide	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

18. The scheme delivers a range of outcomes for the beneficiaries directly involved, and for the wider community. Monitoring of the schemes covers the following:
- Needs/issues addressed
  - Evidence of impact
  - Participant statistics and profile data relating to age and ethnicity
  - Total number of users
19. An indication of some of the benefits that schemes have delivered in 2015/16 is given below. These are a selection of the benefits reported and additional information on each of the schemes is available:
- 40 people gained employment and training opportunities from one scheme in the south of the borough with 10 progressing onto paid or unpaid work and 24 people achieved Princes Trust accredited certificates
  - A report based on surveys conducted with 21 of the older neighbours in one scheme that has been supporting the development of social clubs in Sheltered Housing Units showed that:
    - 67% say being part of activity is their only form of social activity
    - 81% say that the company and companionship of young people is part of what they enjoy about South London Cares
    - 90% say they feel 'more in touch' as a result of their participation with South London Cares
    - 90% say they feel more at ease with modern life
    - 86% say they feel more connected to young people
    - 76% say they are less isolated as a result of joining South London Cares' activities
    - 81% feel specifically 'less lonely'.
20. Monitoring reports provided by a scheme designed to engage young people in diversionary activities in summer 2015 indicated very reduced instances of young people congregating on stairways and committing anti-social behaviour. Feedback from the housing officer indicates that in the period under review instances of anti-social behaviour were significantly reduced compared to periods before this intervention.

### **Policy implications**

21. Selected TRSIG schemes principally target interventions and resources to improve social problems linked to quality of life indicators such as anti-social behaviour, poor social and environmental wellbeing and inequality for tenants and residents.

### **Community impact statement**

22. The panel consists of representatives from TRAs 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. Representatives are drawn from Southwark's tenants' movement and reflect the diversity of the borough.

23. It is anticipated that the outcomes of TRSIG 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 2016-17 target children and young people, isolated and lonely older residents particularly those in sheltered housing units, and the unemployed.
24. One of the main objectives of the programme is to promote inclusion and cohesive communities. The programme seeks to advance equality of opportunity and help to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. The monitoring of the programme includes data on the scheme beneficiaries. Analysis of the data for this year's scheme will be carried out to support the council's duty in regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty.

### **Consultation**

25. There is regular communication with the TRSIG Panel before any changes are made. Recently, the application form was re-designed in consultation with the current providers of schemes. The simplified priorities of the programme were consulted on before implementation.

### **Resource implications**

26. TRSIG is managed by the Communities division of the council's Housing and Modernisation department.

### **Financial implications**

27. The recommendations in this report are funded by way of a dedicated 2016-17 grants budget of £190,000.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Director of Law and Democracy**

28. 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 do anything which it was restricted or prevented from doing under that previous legislation.
29. The provision of grants from within the funds identified for the TRSI programme falls within the scope of the activities the council can undertake under the Localism Act 2011.
30. 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.
31. The council is under an on-going duty, in exercising all of its functions, to have regard to the public sector equality duty (PSED) in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The duty requires the council to have due 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.

32. When making a decision on the recommendations in this report the cabinet member must actively consider the PSED including considerations of the potential benefits of the proposed grants to particular groups in relation to the duty and community impact.

### **Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services (01DKz1516)**

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

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Summary of TRSIG Panel recommendations	Communities division, Housing & Modernisation, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Triumphant Oghre 020 7525 7418

### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 1	TRSIG – Funding Recommendations

### **AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
<b>Report Author</b>	Triumphant Oghre, Commissioning Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	20 April 2016	
<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 Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	21 April 2016	