

Item No. 9.	Classification: Open	Date: 9 February 2019	Meeting Name: Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council
Report title:		Allocation of Neighbourhoods Fund 2019-20	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		Borough and Bankside, Chaucer, North Walworth, Faraday, St Georges and Newington	
From:		Director of Communities	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council allocate a total of £179,798 of the Neighbourhoods Fund 2019-20 from the list of applications outlined in Appendix 1. This amount consists of two elements, namely £170,000 available for 2019-20 (subject to the normal annual council budget setting process in February 2019) and £9,798 of unallocated funding carried forward from the previous year's programme.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The neighbourhoods fund was introduced in 2015 by merging two former revenue programmes known as cleaner, greener, safer revenue (CGS) and community council fund (CCF). The cabinet member for communities, employment and business authorised the amalgamation the CGS revenue fund and community council fund, into a single funding programme to create a new Neighbourhoods Fund for the 2015-16 round and onwards. This decision was taken on 12 December 2014.
3. The neighbourhoods fund has a borough-wide funding budget of £630,000 with an allocation of £10,000 per Councillor for each ward. This is subject to annual budget setting process.
4. The purpose of introducing the neighbourhoods fund was to give community councils decision making powers over significant amounts of revenue funding, that they could allocate to meet locally determined priorities.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

5. St. George's ward will have £20,000 and the other wards will have £30,000 each of revenue grants to allocate. It is proposed that any unallocated funds are to be carried forward from previous rounds (years) and added to the financial year commencing 1 April 2019.
6. The community councils will use the criteria set out below for the allocation of this funding.
 - a. Creating opportunities for people from different backgrounds to get on well together; (e.g. community cohesion)
 - b. Establishing projects which treat each other with respect and consideration (e.g. being a good neighbour, inter-generational contacts)

- c. Encouraging residents to be responsible for their own neighbourhood (e.g. community clean-ups; volunteering initiatives)
 - d. Specific measures to enhance a neighbourhood's environment (e.g. increased cleaning).
7. A community council may choose to allocate some of their neighbourhoods fund resources to their cleaner greener safer capital allocations.
 8. Subject to the availability of resources, the neighbourhoods fund may be used to 'buy' services from the council.
 9. As with any executive decision taken by community councils this is subject to the council's existing scrutiny arrangements.

Community impact statement

10. The roles and functions of community councils include the promotion of involvement of local people in the democratic process. 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.
11. An explicit objective within community council 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 mutual interest.
12. The allocation of the 2019-20 Borough, Bankside and Walworth neighbourhoods fund will in the main, affect the people living in the Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council area. However, in making the area a better place to live and improving life chances for local people, Borough, Bankside and Walworth neighbourhoods fund activities will have an impact on the whole of Southwark.
13. The neighbourhoods fund is an important tool in achieving community participation and cohesion.
14. In fulfilling the above objectives that community councils have of bringing together and involving Southwark's diverse local communities, consideration has also been given to the council's duty under The Equality Act 2010 which requires the council to have due regard when taking decisions to the need to:
 - Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct
 - Advance of equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it
 - Foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it.
15. Of particular regard are issues of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. In this process there are no issues that contravene the Equality Act 2010.
16. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity is further defined in s.149 as having due regard to the need to:
 - Remove or minimise disadvantages connected with a relevant protected characteristic.

- Take steps to meet the different needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic participate in public life or any other activity in which they are under- represented.
- Due consideration was given to equalities impact assessment during the design of this awards process and no adverse impact was evident.

Resource implications

17. There are no resource implications.

Consultation

18. The neighbourhoods fund projects may require consultation with stakeholders, including the project applicant, local residents and tenants and residents associations where applicable.

Financial implications

19. The Borough, Bankside and Walworth neighbourhoods fund has been allocated a total of £170,000 for 2019-20. In addition to this, funds totalling £9,798 remain unallocated from previous years' allocations and thus also available to allocate.
20. It is recommended that community councils set aside some of the unallocated funds from previous years in order to prevent an over allocation of funds, as well as act as a contingency from which urgent or incidental requests can be funded throughout the year. It must also be noted that the unallocated figures reported in the previous paragraph represent current best estimates as the 2018-19 funding round is only finally over on 31 March 2019.
21. Projects that are unlikely to be completed within the year will be reported to the community council and available funding may be allocated to other projects or carried over to the following financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

22. The Local Government Act 2000 ('the 2000 Act') gives the Leader the power to delegate any executive function to an area committee. The allocation of the neighbourhoods fund is an executive function. Payments from the fund can be made in accordance with the powers in the Localism Act 2011 section 1 (the general power of competence for councils to do anything that individuals generally may do).
23. Community councils are 'area committees' within the meaning of the 2000 Act.
24. The terms of the delegation relating to the neighbourhoods fund are set out in part 3H of the council's constitution. Paragraph 14, Part 3H of the constitution enables community councils to approve "the allocation of neighbourhood funds, using the resources and criteria identified by the cabinet."
25. This report is recommending that the community council approve the allocation of monies from the Neighbourhoods Fund 2019-20 as specified at Appendix 1.
26. In allocating funding under the neighbourhoods fund community councils must

have regard to the council's equality duties set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010. The report author has indicated how those duties have been considered in the body of the report at paragraphs 10- 16 of the report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FIN1108 – JB)

- 27. The 2019-20 budget allocation for the neighbourhoods fund is to be agreed by council assembly as part of the budget setting process. The report notes the allocation is £10,000 per councillor and thus £170,000 would be awarded to the Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council. The report also notes a maximum of £9,798 could be carried forward to 2019-20, this being the current estimate of the funds available at year end.
- 28. Paragraph 20 notes the need to maintain a contingency element from the funding available for urgent or incidental requests. This is a prudent measure to assist in the effective running of the neighbourhoods fund.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Neighbourhoods Fund Report IDM	Housing and Modernisation 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Forid Ahmed 0207 525 5540
Neighbourhoods Fund 2018-19 Awards	Housing and Modernisation 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Pauline Bonner 0207 525 1019

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council Neighbourhoods Fund Applications 2019-20

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Forid Ahmed, Community Councils Team Leader	
Report Author	Pauline Bonner, Community Council Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	29 January 2019	
Key Decision	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	No	No
Cabinet member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	30 January 2019	