

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 29 June 2012	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development
Report title:		Community Restoration Fund - allocation of the supporting business growth element of the fund	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Director of Corporate Strategy	

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development:

1. Agrees the allocation of the 'supporting business growth' element of the Community Restoration Fund as detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.
2. Notes that the Director of Corporate Strategy will agree the Conditions of Grant Funding and monitoring arrangements with each successful applicant.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. As part of the Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13 – 2014/15 (Revenue Budget) agreed at Cabinet on 7 February 2012 and subsequently by Council Assembly on 29 February 2012, the Council established a Community Restoration Fund. The detailed background to the establishment of this fund is set out in that report.
4. The Community Restoration Fund is a £1m revenue fund for 2012/13 to support activities, projects and programmes that help to deliver longer term solutions to support the wider community, in particular local business and young people. It was set up as part of the council's response to the events of Monday 8 August 2011, when parts of the borough experienced disturbances, following similar disturbances in North London.
5. The Community Restoration Fund is focused on restoring local community pride and delivering longer term solutions to support business and young people across the borough.
6. The distribution of the element of the Community Restoration Fund targeted at supporting young people is covered in a separate IDM to be considered by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services in June 2012.
7. To support local businesses and business growth, the business element of the Community Restoration Fund will enable local businesses to respond positively to the opportunities presented by regeneration and inject fresh thinking and energy to our high streets and town centres at a time of ongoing economic hardship, triggering sustainable improvements. The intended outcomes and benefits of the business part of the fund are:

- Thriving high streets and town centres at the centre of local communities that attract increased footfall and economic activity from across Southwark's diverse communities
- Businesses that are more able to adapt and innovate in response to regeneration and changing local economic circumstances
- Businesses that work together collaboratively to share ideas and resources and achieve increased economic growth in their area.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Application process

8. In April 2012, the Council announced an application process for the business element, during which time local businesses and business representative organisations could apply to the fund by submitting ideas for projects in their local area.
9. An online application form was made available on the Council's website along with guidance notes on completing the form and the criteria against which applications would be evaluated.
10. The application period lasted for four weeks from Friday 13 April to Friday 11 May. Officer contact details were included on the Council's website should applicants need to seek clarification during the application process.
11. When the application period closed, 17 applications had been received from 15 different local businesses and organisations. The applications totalled £1,774,583.
12. On 8 June 2012, the Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development wrote to all applicants to thank them for their application and set out the process for reaching a decision.

Assessment and proposals for funding

13. In assessing the applications, officers applied a robust process of scoring each application against the fund criteria in order to inform the final recommendations of the Community Restoration Fund Advisory Board to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development.
14. Initially, applications were assessed as to whether they met the eligibility criteria for the fund. Only applications which met the criteria and were from eligible organisations proceeded to the next stage.
15. An officer panel then met to review the applications. Applications were scored on the extent to which they met the criteria of the fund, the sustainability of the application in delivering outcomes beyond the funding period, and the extent to which the outcomes to be delivered were clearly expressed and measurable.
16. The initial recommendations of the officer panel were then considered by the Community Restoration Fund Advisory Board. As set out in the Policy and

Resources Strategy report to Cabinet on 7 February 2012, this board has been established to review candidate activities, projects and programmes and undertake monitoring and evaluation of the fund. The board is chaired by the Finance Director.

17. The allocations recommended by the Community Restoration Fund Advisory Board for the business element of the fund totals £440,340 to eight organisations. The board's recommendations are listed at Appendix 1 of this report.
18. Alongside the publication of this report on the Council's website, a letter has been sent to all applicants to inform them that the report has been published and to advise them of the officer recommendation in relation to their application. For unsuccessful applicants, this letter informs them of the reason for the recommendation and offers the opportunity to make representations to the Cabinet Member ahead of the decision being taken (as set out in paragraph 26 below).

Monitoring delivery

19. Subject to the agreement of these recommendations by the Cabinet Member, officers will meet with each of the successful applicants to agree the Conditions of Grant Funding which will be attached to the funding. A process for monitoring delivery against an agreed set of milestones will also be agreed to ensure that the Council can monitor performance by the funding recipient. Performance monitoring will be proportionate to both risk and to the overall value of the CRF being made available. Given that the emphasis of the CRF is on innovation and new ideas, the performance monitoring will not be deliberately onerous or unduly bureaucratic but incorporated into the council's overall performance reporting processes.

Policy implications

20. The Council Plan agreed at Council Assembly on 6 July 2011 states that:

By working with businesses, we can develop Southwark's local economy and seek to improve access to work and training opportunities for local people. Working with our partners in the private and voluntary sectors, the council is working with business through the recession and residents in gaining employment and qualifications.

21. This fund will support this ambition to work with businesses to develop Southwark's local economy and support businesses through the recession by providing funding which will act as a catalyst to lasting improvements in the borough's high streets and town centres. It has the potential to create improved access to work and training opportunities for local people, both directly and indirectly. Some of the projects recommended for funding will directly provide employment and training, while others will enable this over the long-term by increasing the vibrancy and viability of the local economy.

Community impact statement

22. The purpose of the Community Restoration Fund is to support activities, projects and programmes that help to deliver longer term solutions to support the wider

community, in particular local business and young people.

23. An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out to support the development of the Community Restoration Fund. The Conditions of Grant Funding attached to each successful application will require the funding recipient do not commit any act of discrimination rendered unlawful by the Equality Act 2010.

Resource implications

24. The proposed allocation for the business element of the Community Restoration Fund totals £440,340. This is in line with the agreed budget as set out in Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13-2014/15 – revenue budget agreed by Council Assembly on 29 February 2012.

Consultation

25. During January 2012, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Corporate Strategy held a series of meetings with key stakeholders, including local business leaders and business organisations, to discuss the development of the Community Restoration Fund. This work was very important in helping to establish the scope of the fund and the process by which it would be distributed.
26. Individual Cabinet Member decisions are not made at public meetings and therefore representations cannot be made in this way. However, organisations can make written representations that can be made available to the relevant Individual Member before he or she takes the relevant grant funding decision. Organisations can also request to make a representation in person which will again be subject to approval by the Individual Member prior to any decision being made.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

27. There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development will note that the received applications were assessed against set funding and eligibility criteria, and those recommended for allocation of the fund met that criteria. Officers from Legal Services are working with the report author to finalise the conditions of grant funding to be used. As all funding allocations exceed £2,500 the decision to approve these allocations is reserved to the individual Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the Constitution.

Finance Director

28. This report recommends that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development agrees the allocation of the supporting business growth element of the Community Restoration Fund.
29. The Finance Director notes the resource implications contained within the report. Officer time to effect the recommendations will be contained within existing budgeted revenue resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Policy and Resources Strategy 2012/13 – 2014/15 (Revenue Budget) agreed at Cabinet on 7 February 2012 and subsequently by Council Assembly on 29 February 2012	Constitutional Team	Everton Roberts x57221
Equality Impact Assessment – Community Restoration Fund	Corporate Strategy	Dan Gilby x51499
Letter to applicants from Cabinet Member for Communities and Economic Development dated 8 June 2012	Corporate Strategy	Hilary Payne x53890

APPENDICES

No.	Title
1	Summary of Recommendations

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Graeme Gordon, Director of Corporate Strategy	
Report Author	Dan Gilby, Principal Strategy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	29 June 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	29 June 2012	

Appendix 1 – Summary of Recommendations

Organisation	Project	Recommendation
Bermondsey Business Association	Establishing a Bermondsey Business Improvement District to support the future development of the area as an attractive place to shop and do business	£30,000
Black Business Initiative	Continuing and developing the work of the Ethnic Business Network to support businesses and business growth among BAME businesses	Not recommended
Business Extra	Establishing a business network in Walworth, developing and market a theme and brand for the area, and delivering improvements to East Street Market	£100,000
Camberwell Business Network	Promoting and marketing Camberwell through an advertising campaign and a series of events and promotions	£50,000
Creation Trust	Supporting 80-100 young people to set up and run a pop-up shop in Walworth	£84,000
Deli Felice (on behalf of Albion Street businesses)	Promoting and advertising the parade of shops on Albion Street in Rotherhithe	£4,800
Eclectic Productions	Talking Shop – using Repezent FM to promote businesses and the town centre in Peckham	£31,430
Elaine Carrigan	Free parking for a trial period at the Cerise Road multi-storey car park in Peckham	Not recommended
GLE One London	Providing enterprise support to 20 young people aged 18-24 from across Southwark who are not in education, employment or training,	Not recommended

	but have a good business idea and an aspiration to start a business as route back in to employment	
London Sustainability Exchange	Southwark United - encouraging collaboration between businesses and communities in Peckham and Walworth	Not recommended
Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum	Providing enterprise support to young ex-offenders in Peckham and enable them to work with local businesses leaders	Not recommended
South Southwark Business Association	Establishing a business and community centre in South Southwark	Not recommended
South Southwark Business Association	Boosting business opportunities and encouraging enterprise in South Southwark through a community investment programme, signage, flower baskets, seating, and information points	Not recommended
South Southwark Business Association	Piloting a Hoppa Circle Bus Service linking Dulwich Village, Lordship Lane, East Dulwich Station and Bellenden in a continuous circle	Not recommended
The Means	Establishing a business network in Peckham to bring businesses together to develop the quality of the shopping offer and promote Peckham to potential shoppers	£100,000
Tower Tandoori (on behalf of Tower Bridge Road businesses)	Establishing a Tower Bridge Road Business Association to enable businesses to work together and promote Tower Bridge Road through advertising and events	£40,000
Yemmy's Textiles and Fashions	Developing a tailoring apprenticeship scheme and carrying out shop front improvements and renovation	Not recommended
Total		£440,340