

CABINET	DATE 22 July 2020	ITEM NO 9
TITLE Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund Round 3	WARD (S) All	
CHIEF OFFICER Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills	CABINET MEMBER Regeneration and Growth	
DECISION CLASSIFICATION Key Exempt appendices by virtue of paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended): Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person including the authority holding that information.	IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING? Yes	

I. Decision Required

This report makes the following recommendations to the decision-maker:

- 1.1. Agree the award of Round 3 Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund (GNGF) funding as set out in Appendix I.
- 1.2. Agree that the public vote be removed from the decision-making process for Round 3.
- 1.3. Agree the shortlisted proposals recommended for funding in Appendix I, which have been shortlisted with reference to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 1.4. Delegate to the Director of Regeneration, Enterprise and Skills authority to finalise funding documents and monitoring arrangements.

2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge applied to new development to raise funds for infrastructure improvements. The CIL Regulations require that a portion of this money is made available to the local community, known as the “neighbourhood portion” or “Neighbourhood CIL”.
- 2.2. In Greenwich the neighbourhood portion has been set at 15 per cent, and is retained by the Royal Borough to be spent on the provision, improvement, operation, replacement or maintenance of infrastructure; or on anything else

that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area (Regulation 59F).

- 2.3. In December 2017, Cabinet agreed that the neighbourhood portion should be made available through a local fund for residents called the Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund (GNGF).
- 2.4. Two rounds of GNGF have been completed to date. Round 3 was launched in September £630,639.27 available for local projects, within the four neighbourhood areas.
- 2.5. Applications were invited from 25th September to 18th December 2019. Round 3 was promoted in the local press, on the Council website, on social media, through existing Council networks and in community spaces around the borough.
- 2.6. In total of 56 applications were received, which were evaluated against the selection criteria. 33 applications were shortlisted.
- 2.7. In accordance with the agreed GNGF procedure, it was intended that the shortlisted proposals would proceed to a public vote in February 2020, with funding awards to be agreed at March Cabinet. Unfortunately delays prevented this timeframe from being achieved. The restrictions subsequently imposed following COVID-19 have meant that it has not been possible to undertake a meaningful public vote and the timeframe for releasing the funds has slipped further.
- 2.8. Completing the public vote would add around 3-4 weeks to the decision-making process and allocation of funding. Given the inability to complete a meaningful vote and the fact that the release of these funds will provide support communities that have been badly affected by COVID-19, it is proposed that the public vote be removed from the decision-making process.
- 2.9. Officers have reviewed all previously shortlisted projects in light of COVID-19, and have prioritised those projects that it is considered will provide the greatest support to the community, will help to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 being felt by these organisations and community groups, and are deliverable at this time. This represents the final list of projects that it is recommended are funded in Round 3 Appendix I.

- 2.10. It is proposed that the projects that were shortlisted in Round 3, but have not been prioritised for funding, 3 will roll forward for consideration in GNGF Round 4.
- 2.11. In accordance with the Round 3 funding guidance, and given the exceptional circumstances, the underspend in Area 1 (£1,067.68) and Area 2 (£5,305.22) has been re-allocated to support a project in Area 4 (see comments column in Appendix 1).
- 2.12. The proposal in Area 4 to renovate the toilet block at Bostall Gardens was not shortlisted, on the basis that Cabinet previously agreed that this site should be disposed of. It is understood that there are ongoing discussions regarding Bostall Gardens. Any future award would be subject to Cabinet reconsidering the future of this site.
- 2.13. It is recommended that 100% of funding is released to applicants up front, rather than 10% being held until completion as in previous rounds. Applicants will enter into a funding agreement setting out the terms of the award.
- 2.14. Appendices 2 and 3 detail the projects that are not to be funded in Round 3 - those that were shortlisted and it is proposed roll forward to Round 4 and those projects that were not shortlisted.

3. Available Options

Option 1

Wait for the COVID-19 restrictions to be fully lifted in order that the public vote can be undertaken in the usual way with a combination on online voting and in-person voting in libraries. The responses to the public vote will inform the final decision on funding allocation. This will further delay the allocation of the Round 3 funds.

Option 2

Complete an online-only public vote to inform the final decision on which proposals should receive Round 3 funding. It is not possible to complete this process in time for the July Cabinet and will delay the awarding of funding.

Option 3

As set out in Section 2.8, remove the public vote from the decision-making process for Round 3, and award the funding based on the recommendations in Appendix 1.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1. Option 3 will avoid any further delays to the allocation of the GNGF funding, providing much needed support to organisations impacted by COVID-19 at this time.

5. Consultation Results

- 5.1. The proposals set out in this report have been discussed with the Leader, who is supportive of this approach.
- 5.2. As set out in section 3.3, a public vote would ordinarily form part of the decision-making procedure. Due to the urgent need to release the funds to help mitigate the impact of COVID-19, it has been recommended that the public vote be removed from the decision-making process for this round.

6. Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications

Issue	Implications	Sign-off
Legal including Human Rights Act	<p>The decisions required are set out in paragraph 1 of the report.</p> <p>The method of determining the award of funding is not prescribed by statute. It is for the Council to determine its own reasonable criteria which should not be arbitrary. The Council previously agreed a process which included a public vote as part of its criteria however the Council can reasonably decide to dispense with that requirement taking into account recent events and the factors set out in paragraph 2 of the report.</p> <p>Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a council may delegate its powers (except those incapable of delegation) to an officer</p>	Azuka Onuorah Head of Legal Services 25 June 2020
Finance and other resources including	Cabinet is requested to agree the third round of Greenwich Neighbourhood Growth Fund (GNGF) allocations as set out in Appendix I.	Michael Horbatcheskyj Accountancy Business

procurement implications	<p>The total allocation of £618,268.55 is fully funded from secured borough Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) developer contributions. Of this the majority is derived from the 15% neighbourhood proportion of CIL receipts. These are subsidised with Strategic CIL monies in Area 4, to provide the minimum annual investment pot of £30,000. As set out within the report, an additional cross boundary subsidy into Area 4 (£6,373) is also recommended.</p> <p>The recommendation to provide 100% of the funding allocation upfront will reduce the cash-flow burden on groups; this marginally increases the financial risk associated with the delivery of individual schemes and is further compounded by the impact of Covid-19 on local organisations. As part of the monitoring process there should be on-going financial checks, assurance and reporting of expenditure to ensure that the monies are utilised solely for the grant purpose.</p>	Change Manager (P&I) 14/07/20
Equalities	The decisions recommended through this paper have a low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. The recommended approach ensures a fair approach is applied to all affected applicants and supports organisations at this time.	Alex Wood, Performance and Planning Obligations Manager, 19 th May 2020.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1. GNGF Round 3 Award Recommendations (Exempt)

Appendix 2. Shortlisted but unsuccessful in Round 3 (Exempt)

Appendix 3. Unsuccessful applications (Exempt)

8. Background Papers

- [GNGF Guidance](#)

Report Author: Alex Wood, Performance & Planning Obligations Manager
Tel No. 020 8921 5297
Email. alex.wood@royalgreenwich.gov.uk

Reporting to: Pippa Hack, Director Regeneration, Enterprise & Skills
Tel No. 020 8921 5519
Email. pippa.hack@royalgreenwich.gov.uk