

<b>DECISION MAKER</b> Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Homelessness	<b>DATE</b> 23 January 2023
<b>TITLE</b> Participation in Breaking Ground Programme and Grant award to BME Volunteers	<b>WARD (S)</b> Plumstead & Glyndon and Woolwich Common
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b> Director of Housing & Safer Communities	<b>CABINET MEMBER</b> Housing, Neighbourhoods and Homelessness
<b>DECISION CLASSIFICATION</b> Non key Subject to Call-in Non exempt	<b>IS THE FINAL DECISION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THIS REPORT TO BE MADE AT THIS MEETING?</b> Yes

I. **Decisions required**

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

- I.1 To note that following a successful bid prepared by DG Cities with BME Volunteers, the Council has been awarded £18,000.00 grant funding under the Mayor of London’s Breaking Ground programme, and potentially a further £4,500 legacy funding.
- I.2 To note that the proposal, in line with the requirements of the Breaking Ground programme, is to work with local communities to develop ideas for a pilot project(s) on the Glyndon Estate, which address the issue of climate injustice among Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.
- I.3 To note the intention to accept the grant funding and participate in the programme as summarised in Section 4, and to provide an additional match-funding contribution of £6,000.
- I.4 To award the sum of up to £14,750.00 to BME Volunteers CIC (Company Registration Number 12229933) (‘BME Volunteers’) to develop and deliver the programme. The grant to BME Volunteers will be subject to a Service Level Agreement setting out arrangements for payment of the grant, monitoring review and reporting.

- 1.5 To note the intention to commission DG Cities Ltd (Company Registration Number 09765525 ) to assist in the delivery of the programme, and to facilitate knowledge exchange and project evaluation, through a contract award of up to £9,250.

Agreed/~~Not Agreed~~

Signed.....  
Councillor Pat Slattery  
Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Homelessness

Date 24/01/2023

## 2. **Links to the Our Greenwich Missions**

- 2.1 The report relates to the Council’s agreed missions set out in Our Greenwich as follows:

- Neighbourhoods are vibrant, safe and attractive with community services that meet the needs of local residents
- Greenwich plays an active role in tackling the climate crisis and improving environmental sustainability, in line with our commitment of being carbon neutral by 2030

- 2.2 These missions are supported by the proposed programme of work. The programme will deliver a pilot designed to test and validate inclusive approaches to climate mitigation at the hyper-local/neighbourhood level.

- 2.3 The proposals are also consistent with aims of the Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2021-2026 and the Carbon Reduction Plan approved by the Council in November 2021.

## 3. **Purpose of Report and Executive Summary**

- 3.1 The purpose of this report is to note that grant funding has been secured from the Mayor of London’s Breaking Ground programme which is to be delivered on the Glyndon Estate, SE18 and agree to award a grant of £14,750.00 to BME Volunteers to develop and deliver the

programme. It is noted that there is an intention to commission DG Cities to assist in the delivery of the programme, and to facilitate knowledge exchange and project evaluation, through a contract award with a value of up to £9,250.

3.2 Under the proposals the Council will receive £18,000 grant funding and potentially a further £4,500 legacy funding. The programme is to be completed within 12 months. Details of the proposal are provided together with delivery arrangements.

3.3 The Project will:

- establish a community project under the programme Breaking Ground.
- Support community cohesion and engagement on issues related to climate justice and inclusion.
- Evidence and validate a community-sourced and developed intervention.
- Provide access to knowledge-exchange and capacity building via a Hubbub mentoring programme for BME Volunteers, DG Cities and the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

3.4 It is proposed that the Council makes a match-funding contribution of £6,000, and that BME Volunteers are used to deliver the programme supported by DG Cities.

#### **4. Introduction and Background**

4.1 A bid was submitted to the Mayor of London's Breaking Ground programme, administered on the Mayor's behalf by Hubbub. The programme is designed to address environmental inequalities experienced by lower income, Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities in areas particularly affected by climate change, where there is poor air quality and a lack of access to green space. The Breaking Ground programme also aims to enhance social cohesion and improve health and wellbeing for residents.

4.2 The objectives and expected outcomes are as follows:

- to increase participation in environmental programmes by under-represented groups

- to co-create environmental and nature-based solutions to improve health, wellbeing and community cohesion
- to increase learning and green skills
- to promote future advocacy
- to provide replicable case studies to be adopted in the future both across local authorities and by the communities themselves
- to create a robust data set of consolidated barriers and motivations for under-represented groups across London and which engagement methods are most effective
- to generate outputs specific to the requirements of the community, e.g., outdoor fitness, green space improvement, energy-saving scheme, food-growing project (dependent on community co-design)

4.3 The successful Greenwich bid aims to support residents of the Glyndon estate to collaborate, design and deliver an intervention which facilitates the above outcomes. Glyndon estate was selected for several key reasons:

- Glyndon and wider Plumstead area are one of the highest areas of deprivation (IMD) in the borough.
- Glyndon and the surrounding neighbourhoods are at increased climate risk due to flooding and extreme weather.
- The community is diverse: 36.86% of residents were born outside of the UK, and 38% of residents identify as black, 9% identify as mixed, 39% identify as White British, all groups which are at increased risk of climate change.

4.4 BME Volunteers and DG Cities will deliver a series of engagement events and workshops with residents, with the purpose of delivering a project to be defined and co-designed by residents. DG Cities will deliver an evaluation and assessment of opportunities to invest in, and extend the programme, as per the objectives of the Breaking Ground programme.

4.5 As part of the programme, The Mayor will provide funding (as described) and additional resources and support from Hubbub including:

- A project mentor to help oversee and advise the step-by-step process of programme design and give insights to help develop methods capable of adapting to each community (0.5 days per week).

- Approximately 10 group workshops and site visits to help inform effective programme design and implementation.
  - Access to a network of three other London boroughs on the programme who will engage in peer-to-peer learning.
- 4.6 Local community organisations are a key element of the Breaking Ground programme. BME Volunteers, a Greenwich based Community Interest Company established in 2019 is experienced in engaging minority ethnic groups in volunteering, mentoring and workshop activities to build community cohesion, and build confidence and knowledge on a range of topics including health and wellbeing, employment and skills. One of their key stated objectives is to promote the social inclusion of Black Ethnic Minorities. BME Volunteers contributed to the bid preparation and attended the Panel interview that led to the Grant award. They are also a named partner in the bid.
- 4.7 BME Volunteers has partnered with Royal Borough of Greenwich on several recent community programmes, including the Greenwich Get Digital programme as part of the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government funding to support communities through the COVID-19 pandemic. BME Volunteers is an established and trusted community organisation among local stakeholders. BME Volunteers is primed to benefit from the capacity building and knowledge-exchange of the programme, thus supporting the development of their own volunteering and community engagement programmes.
- 4.8 DG Cities, the Council's Innovation company has considerable experience in research and user engagement, and project management. They prepared the bid, and were instrumental in designing the programme with BME Volunteers. Within the project, DG Cities will deliver facilitation with the community on the project; develop engagement materials; deliver some knowledge-sharing work (workshop) with BME Volunteers to help build their capacity and skills. They will also provide project management support where necessary and attend regular mentoring and knowledge sharing meetings with BME volunteers and the programme team. In addition, DG Cities will, utilising the Council match-funding contribution, evaluate the project and its impact; develop a legacy plan with the community, BME Volunteers and the Council; prepare a report setting out options for leveraging the programme and extending if appropriate.

4.9 Officers from Housing and Safer Communities will be closely involved to identify measures and interventions which can draw on existing funds from the Housing Environmental Programme to enhance and extend the impact of the programme.

4.10 The Council's funding contribution of £6,000 will be met from Digital Greenwich Reserves.

## 5. **Available Options**

5.1 In developing the proposal, officers have considered three options:  
Option 1: To participate in the programme and award the grant as requested. This will enable the Council to utilise the grant funding available to design, deliver and evaluate community-based climate justice interventions for the benefit of the Glyndon community, and to explore options for developing future interventions.

Option 2: Not to participate in the programme and not take-up the grant funding that has been secured. This option would result in the loss of funding to work with local, marginalised communities to bring forward environmental schemes that benefit the Borough and local communities and contribute to the Council's Carbon Reduction Plan.

Option 3: To participate in the Programme but to change the area or focus. The focus of the programme was prescribed in the guidance local authorities received when submitting bids, and the area was selected in discussion with the GLA, based on the characteristics of the area. Consequently, whilst the content of the programme will evolve, there is no scope to change the focus or the area at this stage.

## 6. **Preferred Option**

6.1 The preferred option is Option 1.

## 7. **Reasons for Recommendations**

7.1 The programme presents an opportunity to:

- Support community cohesion and engage communities in the development of practical, small-scale interventions.

- Evaluate the feasibility and social and economic impacts of community-based interventions in support of scale-up of future options under the Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2021.
- Develop deeper connections with local community organisations to support delivery of future interventions.

The award of the grant to BME Volunteers CIC s will enable the Council to utilise the grant funding it has secured, with the input of BME Volunteers and DG Cities to engage BAME residents on the Glyndon Estate to develop proposals that address climate injustice.

## 8. **Consultation Results:**

- 8.1 The proposal was developed in consultation with BME Volunteers and is consistent with the Housing & Homelessness Strategy 2021, which was the subject of extensive consultation

## 9. **Cross-Cutting Issues and Implications**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Implications</b>	<b>Sign-off</b>
<b>Legal</b> including Human Rights Act	<p>The Cabinet Member is requested to approve the award of grant funding in the sum of £14,750.00 to BME Volunteers, a Community Interest Company to develop and deliver the Breaking Ground programme in the borough and to note the intention to issue a contract to DG Cities for up to £9,250.00 to assist in the delivery of the programme.</p> <p><b>Accountable Body</b> The Council is the Accountable Body for the grant funding from the Mayor for London’s Breaking Ground Programme. The role of an Accountable Body involves taking on the responsibility and accountability for the spending of grant monies and the delivery of planned outcomes. This requires compliance with all the</p>	<p>Eleanor Penn, Assistant Head of Legal Services (Planning &amp; Procurement), 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022</p> <p>Ref: 091770</p>

terms of the grant funding and active monitoring and management of spend.

### **Statutory power**

The Council's has a general power of competence to make these grants. Section 1 Localism Act 2011 gives the Council the same power to act that an individual generally has. The power does not need to be exercised for the benefit of any particular place or group, and can be exercised anywhere and in any way. In exercising the general power of competence, the Council must act in accordance with any restrictions applying to existing powers that are overlapped by the general power. There are no restrictions which apply here.

### **Constitution**

Under Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution the making off loans and grants between £10k and £20k is delegated to the Cabinet Member. It should also be noted that all Chief Officers have authority under Part 3 to make bids for funding up to £500,000.

### **Human Rights**

Under the Human Rights Act 1998 local authorities have a duty to promote and protect human rights. The award of these grants do not have legal implications under the Human Rights Act 1998.



<p><b>Finance</b> and other resources</p>	<p>The decision maker is requested to note that the Council has been awarded £18,000 grant funding under the Mayor of London’s Breaking Grant programme and potentially a further £4,500 legacy funding. This follows a successful bid by DG Cities with BME volunteers, on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>The decision maker is requested to agree a grant of up to £14,750 to BME Volunteers, a Community Interest Company to develop and deliver the programme. The grant to BME volunteers will be subject to a Service Level Agreement setting out arrangements for payment of the grant, monitoring and review and reporting. The decision maker is also requested to note the intention to commission DG Cities to assist in the delivery of the programme, and to facilitate knowledge exchange and project evaluation through a contract of up to £9,250.</p> <p>It is proposed that the Council makes a match-funding contribution of £6,000 which will be met from Digital Greenwich reserves.</p> <p>This is a non-key decision.</p>	<p>Akosua Boachie</p> <p>Accountancy Business Change Manager</p> <p>12.12.2022</p>
<p><b>Equalities</b></p>	<p>The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no apparent equality impact on end users.</p> <p>The proposals set out in this report will support the Council’s Equality and Equity Charter and the Council’s Equality Objectives 2020-2024 by seeking to improve services &amp; the</p>	<p>Trevor Dorling</p> <p>19 October 2022</p>

	<p>environment and aligns with the Council's key headline equality measures. Most notably in the creation of a Healthy and Safe living environment.</p> <p>The programme is specifically focused on Black and Minority Ethnic Communities. Research has shown that these communities are often excluded from involvement in the design of measures to address climate change but are often disproportionately affected its impact and from poor environmental quality.</p>	
<b>Climate change</b>	This work will support the key objectives in the Greenwich Carbon Neutral Plan agreed by Cabinet on 18 November 2020.	Trevor Dorling 19 October 2022

#### 10. **Report Appendices**

None

#### 11. **Background Papers**

Bid submission

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