

Information on applications for Innovation Grants

Background

- 1.1 At the meeting on 15 March 2011 the Cabinet agreed a set of priorities and budget to maintain the innovation fund programme for 2012-14. This is an annual opportunity for groups with an annual income of less than £80,000 to apply for funding to develop a project/service for the residents of Barking and Dagenham.
- 1.2 The criteria were reviewed with the Portfolio Holder for Crime, Justice and Communities in June and it was agreed to retain the priorities for funding identified as a result of the consultation held on 2010, which are:
 - Building social capital
 - Building community spirit- across communities and generations
 - Volunteer involvement
 - Market development- projects that support people to live independently in the community
 - Innovation rather than core funding of ongoing projects
- 1.3 It was also agreed to add an additional priority, given the current financial climate, which is:
 - Market development- projects that support people whose income has reduced recently, or those on low incomes
- 1.4 The programme was advertised in August and three workshops were held to outline the priorities for groups wishing to apply were run in September. Workshops were attended by Barking and Dagenham Council for Voluntary Services and groups wishing to apply were referred to the CVS if they required additional support. The closing date for applications was September 30, meaning that applicants had 8 weeks in which to submit applications.
- 1.5 26 applications were received, asking for in excess of £200,000. An initial assessment was carried out, as a result of which 4 applications were identified as ineligible for funding. Officers then scored the applications against the published scoring scheme. Section 2 of the application form has a score assigned to each question and guidance as to what should be included in the answer. The total score available is 210 points. Two officers independently scored the applications and the scores were moderated by the Group Manager. Advice was sought from other sections within the local authority where there were links to other teams.

- 1.6 The recommendations were presented to Councillor Alexander and originally the recommendation was to fund 8 projects but the additional budget for London Councils and the bringing forward of an additional saving of £37,000 into 2012-13 meant there had to be additional savings achieved. In light of the budget changes we are now recommending 4 organisations be presented to Cabinet for consideration. The total fund required is £26,690 (see appendix 2)
- 1.7 Assuming that the budget for Innovation Grants is retained, 4 applications are recommended to be presented to Cabinet for consideration in light of the reduced budget available. The total fund required is £26,690. The original budget set was £60,000. The recommended projects are listed below. Descriptions of the projects, assessment scores, and details of the projects recommended not to fund, are given below.

Innovation Fund Recommendations for 2012 - 13

Organisation	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
Teach Forex	<p>Bmoney Wize: Financial literacy training developed through an interactive money literacy board game explaining financial terms. The facilitated game sessions are simple and fun and have been very well received at Dagenham library. The course will be run in Dagenham and in Becontree over 26 weeks for 20 clients per course. The course will be aimed at parents, those on low incomes and will be open to anyone over 16.</p>	£9,995	£9,995
Recovery Resources Foundation	<p>Recovery link-up café-Barking: Recruit 6 volunteers recovering from addictions to run a café one night a week, providing a safe meeting space and meal for 20 people recovering from addictions. This has been piloted in other boroughs and would be based in Abbey Community Hall.</p> <p>Officer comment: The Joint commissioning manager for the DAAT will be involved in the target setting for this project if it is funded and we will ensure appropriate links to the current drug and alcohol services and DAAT</p>	£8,500	£8,500
B & D Somali Women's Association	<p>Run a job club for 50 women from different communities in Barking and Dagenham who have been unemployed/on benefits for 5 years+. 20% of clients will be disabled. The programme will include an initial skills and aspirations assessment and identify a realistic pathway to employment. Applicants will attend three sessions a week. There would be a target to ensure at least 50% of attendees were from non-Somali communities.</p> <p>Officer comment: The group manager for employment and skills supports this application and has invited the organisation to attend the providers' forum with a view to a specific focused piece of work from Jan- March 2012 based on the quality of this proposal. He has requested that we ask the provider to check job seeker's right to work as part of the agreement if funded. It is judged that the target of 50 women is somewhat ambitious, and so it is recommended to provide only £6,000 of the requested £9,990.</p>	£9,990	£6,000

Organisation	Project Description	Requested	Recommended
Green Shoes Arts	Associate artist programme has two elements: Supporting 3 emerging community artists to pilot 3 projects which would promote community cohesion by bringing local people together. This would involve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q and A: 3 magazines produced by residents of each of the blocks of flats at Goresbrook village- knowing each other • Me Time: 2 local mums creating a arts provision for single mums- building relationships • Far from the Norm (Enigma Dance): 3 day workshop for 12-18 years exploring challenging issues, with a performance to family and friends at the end. 	£5,695	£5,695
	Total		£26,690

Breakdown of All Innovation Grant Initial Applications and Recommendations

Organisation	Project Description	Average Score	Position	Requested	Recommended
B & D Somali Women's Association	<p>Run a job club for 50 women from different communities in Barking and Dagenham who have been unemployed/on benefits for 5 years+. 20% of clients will be disabled. The programme will include an initial skills and aspirations assessment and identify a realistic pathway to employment. Applicants will attend three sessions a week. There would be a target to ensure at least 50% of attendees were from non-Somali communities.</p> <p>Officer comment: The group manager for employment and skills supports this application and has invited the organisation to attend the providers' forum with a view to a specific focused piece of work from Jan- March 2012 based on the quality of this proposal. He has requested that we ask the provider to check job seeker's right to work as part of the agreement if funded</p>	138	1	£9,990	£6,000
Green Shoes Arts	<p>Associate artist programme has two elements: Supporting 3 emerging community artists to pilot 3 projects which would promote community cohesion by bringing local people together.</p> <p>This would involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q and A: 3 magazines produced by residents of each of the blocks of flats at Goresbrook village - knowing each other • Me Time: 2 local mums creating an arts provision for single mums - building relationships • Far from the Norm (Enigma Dance): 3 day workshop for 12-18 years exploring challenging issues, with a performance to family and friends at the end. 	133	2	£5,695	£5,695

Teach Forex	Bmoney Wize: Financial literacy training developed through an interactive money literacy board game explaining financial terms. The facilitated game sessions are simple and fun and have been very well received at Dagenham library. The course will be run in Dagenham and in Becontree over 26 weeks for 20 clients per course. The course will be aimed at parents, those on low incomes and will be open to anyone over 16.	131.5	3	£9,995	£9,995
Recovery Resources Foundation	Recovery link-up café-Barking: Recruit 6 volunteers recovering from addictions to run a café one night a week, providing a safe meeting space and meal for 20 people recovering from addictions. This has been piloted in other boroughs and would be based in Abbey Community Hall. Officer comment: The Joint commissioning manager for the DAAT will be involved in the target setting for this project if it is funded and we will ensure appropriate links to the current drug and alcohol services and DAAT	125.5	4	£8,500	£8,500
Open Doors Family Project	Friendly neighbours' café at Valence House: A weekly community café at Valence staffed by a team of volunteers over 6 months, recruiting new people from the community. The project would create a safe and welcoming environment for people of all ages and backgrounds helping to combat isolation and build supportive relationships amongst residents.	123	5	£3,980	Nil
Families4 Furze	This project will encourage relationships in the community by providing a weekly exercise class over 34 weeks for 20 people from the community during school time, crèche for children. As part of this programme 3 community members will be trained as personal trainers and continue to provide the class for free in the community.	101.5	6	£5,095	Nil
Basti Ram	Be the change you want to see: 6 month project working with a cohort of residents from Heath ward who will share their learning from a recent trip to India through:	96	7	£8,000	Nil

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 sessions preparing Indian food and taking it to elderly/disabled residents. Volunteers will gain food hygiene cert as part of this. • 2 sessions where volunteers teach Indian cookery to older people • <p>Young volunteers will be involved in designing, planning and lead 6 themed workshops gaining a qualification as part of this.</p>				
Future M.O.L.D.S Communities	Back 2 Work project: An adult job club for 70 clients (19+) which would target single mums but be open to all. This would be weekly 4 hour session over 40 weeks. The project will include personal and social development awards- level 1 qualification, support and drop-in, and box-fit to build confidence.	93	8	£9,829	Nil
Advice & Learning Bureau	The project would introduce a culture of financial management and saving by raising financial awareness for 40 French speaking Africans (50+). The project will be run in groups of 10, using a qualified professional. Each client will receive 3 x 4 hours to understand basic finance running from May-July 2012. This will impact their families and communities as well as them.	90	9	£7,915	Nil
Global Action Research & Development Initiative Ltd	Action research advocacy project: Based on entrepreneurship training the project would work on basic skills with unemployed people, seeking to move them into self employment and economic independence. The course would include: English, numeracy, interview skills, volunteer placements and cash flow statements.	82.5	10	£9,373	Nil
Praxis Interactive Research	I have "IT" in me: Using humour, creativity and ideas to build positive self image and attitudes. This is a 5 month project of 7 sessions for up to 60 people.	78	11	£8,685	Nil
CORECOG	Building contact between French speaking voluntary organisations in Barking and Dagenham: working with	78	12	£8,822	Nil

	groups based in Starting point to develop a befriending service for 25 volunteers from different organisations around IAG for asylum seekers, migrants and refugees.				
Barking Churches Unite	Train 6 volunteers and 1 member of staff to facilitate 30 parents coming together from July on a weekly basis to support one another. Gascoigne ward. This will be run alongside a current kids club.	76.5	13	£9,875	Nil
Congolese Refugee Women Association	Capacity building and skills for future sustainability of the organisation: Facilitated self assessment of the organisation- engaging trustees, volunteers and service users over 4 months to position the organisation for the future	75	14	£4,146	Nil
Mark McCarthys Magic Moments	Building the capacity of this cancer charity to become sustainable by the purchase of equipment for promotion and presentations to schools and community groups.	75	15	£5,215	Nil
Leyton Visitation Action Group	Move on to independence: Work with 30 non-English speaking low income women in work to improve their employability and understanding. This will be done through workshops with a view to developing self-reliance and reduce dependency on others.	73.5	16	£9,780	Nil
Yu Hua Chinese Association	Introducing a sports and social club for children and elders in the borough. There will be a weekly programme including sports activities, It sessions and team building exercises. There will also be 3 wider community events.	66	17	£10,000	Nil
Living Word Church Parole Vivante	Monthly Empowering Saturdays: working with new arrivals and vulnerable people to engage, motivate, inspire and support them. The programme would use creative activities to build confidence. There would be 2 cohorts of 25 people over 6 monthly sessions.	60	18	£7,454	Nil
DISAD	Yes you can project: Coaching and motivating residents to empower them to achieve. This will include workshops, mentoring, talks, roadshows and parenting/finance workshops	60	19	£9,990	Nil

Eagle Recruitment & Training Centre	ERTC seek to build an efficient management system by having a quality assessment system and attain Matrix qualification. This would position the organization to win contracts to work with people on skills development.	44	20	£4,920	Nil
Village Hall Community Association	Replacing the windows of Village community Hall with double glazed windows.	42	21	£10,000	Nil
B & D Punjabi Welfare Association	The project would: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund trips to the sea-side for children and elders • 2 cultural events for Punjabi community, inviting the wider community to the celebrations. • Provide weekly meetings- issues facing members • Train 3 volunteers to help disabled people on visits. 	39	22	£4,015	Nil
St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation	Annual income in excess of the £80,000 threshold	0		£9,024	Not considered
Women Together Association	No project description was included so officers were unable to assess the project	0		£9,728	Not considered
The Small Business Consultancy	Did not demonstrate that its annual income was below the £80,000 threshold.	0		£7,283	Not considered
CSR Projects	Could not provide sufficient evidence that the organisation had been formally constituted for 1 year.	0		£10,000	Not considered
				£207,308	£26,690