



# Decision of Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## Report from the Corporate Director, Resident Services

### Application to the Supporting London Boroughs Recovery Engagement Project for external grant funding

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Kingsbury, Queensbury, Roundwood and Harlesden & Kensal Green
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	N/A
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> (Name, Title, Contact Details)	Emma Sharpe Funding and Bid Writing Manager for Climate Action Emma.Sharpe@brent.gov.uk

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Supporting London Borough's Recovery Engagement Project is a grant fund administered by the GLA and delivered in collaboration with London Councils and the London Community Engagement Network. The grant aims to support the systems and processes for community engagement and the sharing of community-led insight with decision-makers who are helping build back London as it recovers from Covid-19 and responds to the cost of living crisis.
- 1.2 Up to 10 boroughs across London can access a maximum grant of £25,000. Boroughs are to be notified of the grant outcome in February 2023 and project delivery is to take place over the course of the year to November 2023. No match funding is required.
- 1.3 The Brent Climate Emergency Team would like to submit an application to this grant funding for a project to support engagement with seldom heard community groups based in the Green Neighbourhoods. In order to be considered for funding, Brent will need to submit its application ahead of the submission deadline on 10<sup>th</sup> February.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

That the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action in consultation with the Leader:

- 2.1 Approves the submission of an application for grant funding as set out in Section 4 of this report from the Supporting London Boroughs Recovery Engagement Project fund.

## **3.0 Grant Key Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 Support the systems and processes for community engagement and the sharing of community-led insight with decision-makers to help shape London's recovery from Covid-19 and respond to the cost of living crisis.
- 3.2 Ensure that communities disproportionately affected by Covid-19 and the cost of living crisis can share their lived experience with London's decision-makers.
- 3.3 Identify opportunities to amplify the voices of the communities with the fewest chances to participate in London's recovery, because of structural exclusion.
- 3.4 Foster a more equitable relationship between London's diverse communities and decision-makers.
- 3.5 Support communities and grassroots organisations to participate fully in London's recovery, with a specific focus on intersectional experiences and perspectives.
- 3.6 Embed community insight with London's strategic decision-making bodies, including the GLA and London Councils, informing their understanding of the aspirations and needs of London's communities.

## **4.0 Brent's Application**

- 4.1 We know that historically those from diverse communities and those on lower incomes have faced barriers to inclusion in the climate conversation, and yet it is these communities that are most severely impacted by environmental issues such as overheating, flooding, lack of access to green space, exposure to poor air quality. With this funding, Brent would continue to work with the organisations that we have established relationships with as part of the Green Neighbourhoods consultation phase.
- 4.2 This will allow us to test a hyper-local community-led engagement approach, which sees the council co-deliver the Green Neighbourhood programme alongside community groups and leaders that represent the diverse demographic of the area. Learning from this approach will inform how Brent rolls the Green Neighbourhoods out across the whole borough in future years.

## **5.0 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Brent is applying for the maximum grant of £25,000 to support the project detailed in section 4. There is no co-funding requirement to the grant.

## **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 In accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution, submission of bids for additional resources from government is a decision for individual Cabinet Members in relation to their portfolio area in consultation with the Leader.
- 6.2 Subject to grant approval, the Corporate Director Resident Services has delegated authority pursuant to paragraph 9.5 of Part 3 of the Constitution and Financial Regulation 8.2.2 of Part 2 of the Constitution to enter into a grant funding arrangement. In doing so, the Corporate Director must ensure that the objectives of the grant agreement are consistent with the Council objectives and priorities in accordance with Financial Regulation 9.1.2 and must only exercise delegated powers where the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources approves entry into such arrangement.

## **7.0 Equality Implications**

- 7.1 There are no equality implications at this stage of making the application for funding.

## **8.0 Any Other Implications (HR, Property, Environmental Sustainability - where necessary)**

- 8.1 Funding from the Supporting London Borough's Recovery Engagement Project would enable Brent to continue building relationships with seldom heard community groups based in the Green Neighbourhoods and supporting the co-delivery of the Green Neighbourhood action plans. The project is therefore directly aligned with our commitment to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

### **Report sign off:**

Chris Whyte  
Director Environment & Leisure