

	<b>Cabinet Meeting</b> 15 July 2024
	<b>Report from the Corporate Director          of Partnerships, Housing and          Residents Services</b>
	<b>Lead Member - Cabinet Member for          Public Safety &amp; Partnerships –          (Councillor Harbi Farah)</b>
<b>Community Grants Fund (NCIL) 2023-24 – Projects over          £100k</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key Decision
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix A: Community Grants Fund 2023-24 assessment process
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Janet Latinwo, Head of Strategy and Partnership 020 8937 4104 <a href="mailto:Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk">Janet.Latinwo@brent.gov.uk</a>  Angela Collins, Community and Social Infrastructure Lead 020 8937 2897 <a href="mailto:Angela.Collins@brent.gov.uk">Angela.Collins@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

1.1. This report seeks approval for those projects recommended to receive a Community Grants Fund (NCIL) award over £100,000.00 in value. In line with the constitution, all recommended grant awards over £100k require Cabinet approval.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 Cabinet approval is sought for the funding awarded to:

- Step Up Hub - £114,000

- Forest United (1973) Youth Football Club Limited - £146,976 subject to additional funding being secured for the total amount of the project cost of £1.2m.

### **3.0 Cabinet Member Foreword**

- 3.1 Community Grants are of significant benefit to the community as they provide opportunities for both the community and voluntary sector to help create better economic opportunities and stronger, more connected communities.
- 3.2 Community grants (NCIL) are funded from monies collected from the Community Infrastructure Levy. This is a non-negotiable charge developers pay to the council on most new developments. It allows for money to go back into communities and address the impact development has on local infrastructure.
- 3.3 This is because in Brent we want to ensure that our communities can thrive, and that economic resilience is built up with a wide range of opportunities and facilities for residents. In line with the CIL regulations, NCIL can be used to fund a broad range of facilities and must be spent on priorities agreed in consultation with the local community.
- 3.4 To assess the applications to the Community Grant (NCIL) fund and their impacts for the community, a five-stage assessment process was introduced. This process can be found in Appendix A. The councillor panels recommended a total of 35 projects with two, an application from Step Up Hub and Forest United, exceeding funding for over £100,000.
- 3.5 Both applications help to meet outcomes within the Borough Plan, namely Strategic Priority 3, Thriving Communities, and are seeking approval from Cabinet. Further details of these projects are outlined in the report.
- 3.6 Under the Thriving Communities outcome the council commits to allow the local community to be involved in and lead on activities for their communities. Both the community grants contribute towards this outcome.

### **4.0 Background**

- 4.1 In April 2023 Cabinet agreed to pause the 'You Decide' Participatory Budgeting initiative and agreed a revised approach to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) with a name change to Community Grants.
- 4.2 The Community Grants is funded from monies collected from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), a non-negotiable charge developers pay to the council on most new developments, to address the demands placed on an area.
- 4.3 At least 15 percent of the money we collect from new, eligible developments in the borough must be spent on priorities following consultation with the local community every three years.

- 4.4 Brent is divided into five Brent Connects Neighbourhood areas Harlesden, Kilburn, Kingsbury and Kenton, Wembley, and Willesden. The value of grant funding available may vary between Neighbourhoods.
- 4.5 The Community Grants is distributed using a formula agreed by cabinet.
- 4.6 The table below sets out this approach ensuring that the Council maintains its obligations to apportion the money accurately in line with statutory guidance.

Brent Connects Area	Number of wards	NCIL Project Spend (£m)
Wembley	8	0.365
Harlesden	3	0.136
Kilburn	3	0.136
Kingsbury and Kenton	5	0.227
Willesden	3	0.136
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>

- 4.7 As part of the revised process, a five-stage assessment process was introduced (as detailed in **Appendix A**) which concluded with Councillor Panels recommending a total of 35 projects to be awarded funding: with two projects exceeding funding for over £100,000.00. These projects are:

1. **Step up Hub** with a grant award of £114,000.
2. **Forrest United** with a grant award of £146,976.

## 5.0 Projects

- 5.1 The aim of the **Step-Up Hub** is to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged people through providing support to further equality, social justice, social mobility, and community cohesion. One of their key objectives is to promote a strong work ethic as a key tool to break the poverty cycle and support achievement of young people through education, training, and mentoring.
- 5.2 Step-Up Hub are proposing a social infrastructure project to provide a community leadership programme through the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) for 50 beneficiaries. The course is open for 50 Brent residents to complete a one-year course consisting of both academic learning and practical exercises.
- 5.3 The programme combines academic learning, with practical tasks, helping learners address real-world problems. The structured course will be supplemented by mentoring and coaching support. Course content will focus on community cohesion and crime reduction and include delivering interventions to address anti-social behaviour.
- 5.4 The aim of the project is to educate and enable underrepresented groups to become future community leaders, by addressing crime and anti – social behaviour, reduce community conflicts resulting from regeneration, and advance the education and employability of beneficiaries.

- 5.5 The attendees for this programme will come from two diverse groups who are underrepresented in leadership positions. The first is members of the Somali, Caribbean, Arab, and Afghan communities as young people from these ethnic groups are disproportionately involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The second group is from the emerging Brazilian, Romanian and Ukrainian communities.
- 5.6 The internal department review at stage 2 of the assessment process noted that community leadership projects had been successful in previous projects and this project meets the additional and growing needs of the community. The project was recommended to progress to stage 3 of the process to be reviewed by Councillors.
- 5.7 The project was reviewed by the Brent Connect chairs borough-wide Panel held on Monday 4 March 2024. The decision was made to recommend the full funding award of £114,000. It should be noted that the project has also secured additional external funding to the value of £70,000. to meet the full cost of the project.

### Councillor Assessment Average Scoring and Recommendation

Project Name	The application clearly outlines how it supports strategic borough plan and neighbourhood priorities	The Project benefits diverse communities in Brent, reflecting the demographics of the neighbourhood you wish to deliver in.	The application outlines a clear description of the project and its overall impact?	Does the project demonstrate value for money?	Total
Step-Up Hub	3	3.5	3.5	3	13

- 5.8 **Forest United (1973) Youth Football Club Limited** are proposing a physical infrastructure project to benefit the Wembley and, Kingsbury and Kenton areas.
- 5.9 Forest United are proposing to develop a new football pavilion suitable for a grass roots level football club. The hope is that the building will provide changing facilities to host two teams and associated officials as well as a social space for both club and the wider community to use.
- 5.10 It is proposed that the building is to be re-sited in the approximate location of the previously demolished pavilion. The location was chosen due to the minimal impact it would have on the existing playing fields and the existence of the previous access road as well as the existing service trenches and ducts from the previous building.
- 5.11 The target audience are young people and adults, between the ages of 6 and 35 years old. Forest United's current membership is approximately 400 users and 1200 affiliated parents. The intention is to double membership and affiliated users with the creation of the new pavilion.

- 5.12 The internal department review at stage 2 of the assessment process noted that this project supports, A Healthier Brent and Thriving Communities through social cohesion and access to sporting activities. The values of the club (Family, Excellence, Growth, Proactivity and Humility) align with those of Brent's borough plan. The new facility will support community cohesion and provide facilities for Brent residents to access.
- 5.13 This is a multi-Brent Connects area project. The project was reviewed by the Brent Connect ward members for Wembley, and Kingsbury and Kenton Brent connect areas.
- 5.14 At the Kingsbury and Kenton Panel meeting held on Tuesday 12 March 2024 the decision was made to recommend funding in the amount of £146,976. The Wembley Panel meeting held on 20 March 2024 decided not to award any funding to this project.
- 5.15 The total cost of this project is £1,200,000. The project was seeking £400,000 from the Community Grants fund but received a funding award of £146,976.00. The project has sought additional external funding to value of £800,000. However, the Kingsbury & Kenton Panel stipulated that should the project not secure the deficit of £253,024. to meet the full cost of the project the Community Grant funding award should not be released.

### **Councillor Assessment Average Scoring and recommendation**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>The application clearly outlines how it supports strategic borough plan and neighbourhood priorities</b>	<b>The Project benefits diverse communities in Brent, reflecting the demographics of the neighbourhood you wish to deliver in.</b>	<b>The application outlines a clear description of the project and its overall impact?</b>	<b>Does the project demonstrate value for money?</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Forest United (1073) Youth Football Club Limited Step-Up Hub</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>13</b>

## **6.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

- 6.1 It should be noted that as part of the Community Grant Funds assessment process all stakeholders have had extensive consultation and engagement, and Ward members were also well engaged.

## **7.0 Financial Considerations**

- 7.1 The projects, if agreed, will be funded through the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy, and have met the criteria at stage 2 of the Community Grants Fund assessment process. The Step-Up Hub has been allocated £114,000 and Forest United (1973) Youth Football Club Limited have been allocated £146,976.
- 7.2 If the Forest United (1973) Youth Football Club Limited does not secure the remaining fund required of £253,024. to meet the full cost of their project, the Community Grant funding award will not be released. The funding set aside will be returned to the central pot.
- 7.3 The funds for both projects will need to be spent in accordance with their agreed project plan. This will be strictly monitored with the view to identify issues early and provide support where required to avoid any possible overspends that will impact the project's completeness. The failure to maintain spend in alignment with the project plan may result in a return of the funds. Any underspend will be returned to Council.

## **8.0 Legal Considerations**

- 8.1 Strategic CIL is limited to the provision, improvement, replacement, operation, or maintenance of infrastructure (reg. 59). By section 216 Planning Act 2008, infrastructure is defined as comprising (a) roads and other transport facilities; (b) flood defences; (c) schools and other educational facilities; (d) medical facilities; (e) sporting and recreational facilities, and (f) open spaces.
- 8.2 Regulations 59A and 59F authorises the application of NCIL by a local council. In either case such an application is limited by reg. 59C or as appropriate reg. 59F (3) to funding:
- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation, or maintenance of infrastructure; or
  - (b) Anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area."
- 8.3 What is to be provided by the funding if it is not infrastructure has to be justified as addressing demands that are being placed or will be placed on the area by reason of the construction of new buildings or work to or changes of use of existing buildings. It is not enough that what is to be provided is for the general wellbeing of the area.
- 8.4 Legal advice was provided on the two projects recommended in this report at stage 2 of the Community Grants Funds assessment process.

## **9.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

- 9.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the

need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

- 9.2 The Community Grant approach has positive implications as it supports and empowers our communities to thrive. Both proposed projects seek to build community cohesion and inclusion which are core components of our EDI objectives. Additionally, equality impact assessments were completed as part of the assessment process at stage 3.

## **10.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

10.1 N/A

## **11.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

11.1 N/A

## **12.0 Communication Considerations**

12.1 N/A

### **Related document(s) for reference**

[Cabinet 17 April 2023 - Community Grants NCIL Programme](#)

#### **Report sign off:**

***Peter Gadsdon***

Corporate Director of Partnerships, Housing  
and Resident Services