

 Brent	Report for the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Jobs and Skills
	Report from the Director , Communications, Insight & Innovation
Approval to award and enter into grant funding agreement with London’s Community Kitchen in respect of the Grand Union Employment and Skills Community Hub	
Wards Affected:	Alperton
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Name: Marta Portalska Job Title: Change and Improvement Project Manager Email: marta.portalska@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1. This report concerns the award of grant funding to London’s Community Kitchen to support the delivery of a new employment and skills focussed Community Hub located in the Grand Union development, designed to support residents in the borough with employment, training and educational programmes, a fully operational and affordable café and a community centre.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Jobs and Skills:

- 2.1 Agrees to award grant funding to London’s Community Kitchen in respect of the Grand Union Employment and Skills Community Hub between 1st April 2025 and 1st October 2027 in the sum of £50,000 (fifty thousand pounds).
- 2.2 Agrees for Brent Council to subsequently enter into a grant agreement with London’s Community Kitchen.

3.0 Detail

3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1.1 Grant funding to London Community Kitchen will support with costs associated with the delivery of an Employment and Training focused community hub in the Grand Union development in Alperton. This aligns with the Borough Plan 2023

– 2027 priority of Prosperity and Stability in Brent, by supporting the tackling and easing of the pressure of the rising cost of living. The Council aims to continue to work with partners and build on existing joint plans to reduce poverty and ensure everyone has access to direct support when they need it, such as employment support.

<https://www.brent.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/strategies-priorities-and-policies>

3.2 Background

- 3.2.1 In February 2024, Brent's Cabinet agreed a new model of resident support focused on providing residents with the tools and knowledge to improve their situation in the longer term. The refreshed Resident Support Fund came into effect from 1st April 2024 and wider elements of the model including wraparound food, debt and immigration support launched as longer-term services. Key design principles of the model include supporting residents to be more resilient and independent, and to incentivise skills and employment.
- 3.2.2 The Grand Union Employment and Skills Community Hub by London's Community Kitchen aligns closely with the model's principles. The scheme aims to transform the space into a community centre promoting community learning, employment, training and engagement, over an initial period of 36 months. London's Community Kitchen introduced a café offering nutritious and fresh food operated by local students as part of an employment training pathway, community learning and educational initiatives and will engage local school children and young people in educational workshops hosted on site.
- 3.2.3 The centre is located in the Grand Union Community Hub, 1 Quay Walk, Alperton, HA0 1DY which is a modern, multi-purpose venue with kitchen facilities, completed and opened in 2022. It is owned by Grand Union Development Trust, who sought a third-party operative for the Café and Hub and granted a lease for operations to London's Community Kitchen.
- 3.2.4 As part of the February 2024 Cabinet report, funding of £20,000 (twenty thousand pounds) per annum for three years was ringfenced to grant fund London's Community Kitchen to cover operating costs associated with the Grand Union Community Hub.
- 3.2.5 Since then, £10,000 (ten thousand pounds) has been identified through the Household Support Fund for use between October 2024 and 31st March 2025 to support the scheme, reducing the contribution from council funds to £50,000.
- 3.2.6 Grant funding will be made on a conditional basis, with London's Community Kitchen expected to deliver the following outputs:
- Delivery of a Community Hub model, consisting of a training Café operated by students as part of a training programme, a Kitchen and Skills Academy.

- **Educational Programs Engagement** – successful engagement of 3,000 children from 5 targeted local schools in various educational programs.
- **Support for students with additional needs** – provision of specialised and tailored education to 60 students with supported needs, per annum.
- **Adult employability courses** – successful engagement of 200 adults per annum in employability courses, with at least 15% placed into work experience or permanent positions.
- **Community involvement** – recording of the total number of community members engaged in hub activities and programs, with a target 10% engagement increase per annum.
- **Program satisfaction** – achievement of a 90% satisfaction rate for educational and employability programmes.
- Regular project reporting including an end of project report.

3.2.7 The measures of success will be as follows:

- Photographic evidence of activities
- Recording of quantitative usage measured aligned with outputs in 3.6, and wider centre footfall,
- Successful referral routes with Brent Hubs, Brent Works, Brent Start and Public Health.
- Recording and reporting of impact measures, to be agreed with Brent Council.
- Submission of regular project progress reports, to be agreed with Brent Council.

3.2.8 Table 1 below outlines Brent Council’s grant contribution to the first three years of the scheme.

Table 1: Brent Council grant funding contribution timetable

Project year	Period	Brent Council grant contribution
Year 1	01-Nov-24 to 31-Mar-25	£10,000 (HSF funds)
	01-Apr-25 to 31-Oct-25	£10,000
Year 2	01-Nov-25 to 31-Oct-26	£20,000
Year 3	01-Nov-26 to 31-Oct-27	£20,000

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 The scheme forms part of the wider resident support model approved by Cabinet in February 2024.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 A grant payment of £50,000 will be made in relation to London’s Community Kitchen in respect of the Grand Union Employment and Skills Community Hub.

- 5.2 The cost of this will be covered within the annual £1m allocated budget for the 2024-2027 Brent Resident Support Fund (RSF); which was agreed by Cabinet in February 2024.
- 5.3 The recipient shall promptly repay to the Council any money where funding has been paid in error before all conditions attaching to the Funding have been complied with by the Recipient.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 Under paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution, Cabinet Members have powers to make grants or give financial assistance to organisations (other than from the Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund) provided that:
- a) if the grant or other financial assistance involves the grant of funds from Council's own resources the grant or other financial assistance shall not exceed £50k (and shall exceed £25k unless specifically referred to the Cabinet Member by the relevant officer)
 - b) if the grant or other financial assistance involves the distribution of funds received from a third party the grant or other financial assistance complies with the conditions under which the funds have been received by the Council.
- 6.2 The proposed grant award involves the grant of funds from the Council's own resources. The value of the grant does not exceed £50,000, and exceeds £25,000, and as such it is considered that the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities, Jobs and Skills has authority to award the grant pursuant to paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution.
- 6.3 The Council will enter into formal grant agreement with the grant recipient setting out the basis and terms and conditions on which grant funding is being distributed.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the "Public Sector Equality Duty"), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
- 7.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 7.3 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- 7.4 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.
- 7.5 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications.
- 7.6 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse health equality implications.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 It is recommended that the hub be utilised as efficiently as possible from an environmental sustainability perspective. For example, minimising energy usage on the site where possible, encouraging active travel to and from the site, and managing all forms of waste on site effectively (i.e. recycling provisions and food waste in particular). The hub could also be utilised to support communities on engagement or educational programmes on tackling climate change or protecting the environment.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

- 9.1 This service is currently provided by an external organisation and there are no implications for Council staff or Council premises arising from this grant funding.

10.0 Communication Considerations

- 10.1 Effective communications will be key to ensuring residents who require this support are aware of the service, and London's Community Kitchen will focus on growing community engagement. The service will also have referral routes with several Council teams including Brent Hubs, Brent Works and Brent Start.

Related Documents:

[Future of the Resident Support Fund \(RSF\) and New Model of Support – Cabinet 2024](#)

[Household Support Fund extension from 1st October 2024 until 31st March 2025 – Officer Key Decision, October 2024](#)

Report sign off:

Sadie East

Director, Communications, Insight & Innovation