

## **COMMUNITY ACCESS FUND UPDATE**

Presented by Chief Executive

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides Members with a progress update on the delivery of the Community Access Fund. The report provides an update from the start of the project (July 2015) against the targets highlighted within the initial Members paper E/389/15 and subsequent Members Briefing Note June 2015.

The Community Access Fund is intended to be used to engage with hard to reach community groups across the region and to provide financial support for access to the Authority/Trust venues, open spaces and services. The Community Access Fund enables officers to work closely with Boroughs, create sustainable programmes and to fully maximise this opportunity to raise awareness of the Authority/Trust for long-term repeat visits, thereby creating real value.

The Community Access Fund is managed by the Authority's Sports Development Manager who oversees the delivery and monitoring of the project. A Steering Group made up of officers from across the Authority and the Trust has been created to help drive the project forward and to ensure effective delivery.

It has taken several months to establish the contacts across the 16 Boroughs involved and to engage with the various schools and community groups. As a result it is proposed that the pilot scheme be extended into 2016/17 after which a full evaluation of the scheme can be carried out.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- Members Approve:
- (1) a six month extension to the Community Access Fund beyond 31 March 2015 using the current budget;
  - (2) to carry forward £34,000 from the 2015/16 budget into 2016/17; and
  - (3) that a full evaluation of the Community Access Fund pilot project will be carried out in September 2016.

## BACKGROUND

- 1 Members approved a budget of £113,000 (Paper E/389/15) for the Community Access Fund (CAF) to help engage with different community groups (particularly hard to reach groups) from across the region and to help with access to the Authority/Trust venues and services.
- 2 An additional Members Briefing Note was circulated in June 2015 providing greater clarity and recommendations on the most effective way of delivering the CAF.
- 3 16 Local Authorities across the region were selected to engage with in the first year of the project, to act as a pilot and to provide a more effective process of delivery. There are 12 London Boroughs along with 2 Districts from Essex and Herts respectively:
  - Lewisham;
  - Ealing;
  - Richmond;
  - Bexley;
  - Redbridge;
  - Islington;
  - Lambeth;
  - Dacorum;
  - Uttlesford;
  - Epping Forest;
  - Waltham Forest;
  - Haringey;
  - Newham;
  - Tower Hamlets;
  - Hackney;
  - Broxbourne.

The rationale for selecting 16 Boroughs across the region was to ensure the CAF was manageable and officers had the capacity to deliver and communicate with the various community groups. 12 Boroughs were selected randomly from across the region along with the 4 Boroughs which border our major venues on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. The funding for the CAF has been distributed equally across all 16 Boroughs.

Subject to a successful pilot project, the Authority will be able to engage with a new set of Boroughs in year two and beyond, until all Boroughs across the region have had the opportunity to access the CAF. This will be subject to resources that will need to be identified as part of the 2017/18 budget process and built into the medium term financial plan.

- 4 Although Members agreed funding towards the CAF for the start of the 2015/16 financial year, delivery of the project started from June 2015 once the process for delivery had been agreed and the budgets set in place.
- 5 10% of the total CAF (£11,300) has been earmarked specifically for access to the Authority's Outdoor Learning programme managed by the Authority Youth and Schools team. It was agreed that this funding be used to help support schools with transport costs to and from the Regional Park, specifically targeting

schools from non-riparian Boroughs. Total spend to date is £1,680. It is projected that all of the budget earmarked for this element of CAF will be spent in 2015/16 financial year.

- 6 A CAF Steering Group made up of senior officers from within the Authority and the Trust has been formed to ensure that the Trust have the opportunity to help shape delivery.

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITY ENGAGEMENT**

- 7 An important element of the project is to ensure that the selected Boroughs are made fully aware of the opportunities the CAF brings to help with engagement with hard to reach community groups and provide access to the Authority/Trust venues, open spaces and services.
- 8 All 16 Boroughs were contacted via a lead officer within Community Development, Sports Development or in Education. Authorities were asked to provide the Authority with contacts from within their Boroughs/Districts of community groups (with a focus on hard to reach groups) they felt would benefit from this programme.
- 9 Initial engagement with some Boroughs proved a challenge, however 12 of the 16 Authorities have now responded and provided the Authority with a comprehensive and diverse list of community groups to contact (see Appendix A to this report). The Authority is in communication with the remaining four Boroughs and community group nominations are expected from them soon.
- 10 If the selected 16 Boroughs do not take up their full allocation of funding, this provides officers with an opportunity to seek community groups from additional non-riparian Boroughs. Officers will have a clear view of any available funding for additional Boroughs in December.

#### **COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL GROUPS ENGAGEMENT**

- 11 Initial communications and engagement with the various nominated community groups has proven very challenging and time consuming, however things are progressing and groups are now engaging in activity and are being booked in to participate in activity in the new year.
- 12 Selected Authorities that are most advanced in terms of having participated in activity already or ones that are due to take part very soon include:
  - Bexley;
  - Lambeth;
  - Tower Hamlets;
  - Newham .

The Authority is in communication with the nominated community groups from 12 Boroughs across the region organising the logistics of each visit to the Regional Park (Appendix A to this report). Numerous community groups have highlighted that they would prefer to take part in activity during the summer months, and that they require notice to be able to programme in activity, therefore uplift in activity should be seen from Spring 2016 onwards. In addition to this, a number of groups have enquired about track cycling, and due to the lack of available space within the latest track cycling programme this has led to

further delays.

- 13 Currently 10 different community groups from seven different Authorities have made use of the CAF and have either undertaken activity or have activity booked in within the next couple of weeks. Total spend to date is £6,238 with a projected year end spend of £79,000.
- 14 The CAF has provided support for transport costs to seven different schools/Boroughs through the Authority's Youth and Schools service:
  - Brentwood;
  - Braintree;
  - Castle Point;
  - Harlow;
  - Rochford;
  - Newham;
  - Waltham Forest.

#### **DELIVERY PLAN**

- 15 Authority officers will continue to engage with the nominated community groups to arrange activity bookings and liaise with the nominated Boroughs to provide them with updates. It is predicted that a majority of activity will take place from the New Year onwards as the weather improves.
- 16 A detailed report to Members will be produced at the end of the project (September 2016) providing information on each community group that accessed CAF, including the number of participants, good news stories, financial spend and information relating to repeat visits etc.
- 17 Officers will maximise the PR potential of the CAF to promote the work of the Authority and Trust, including highlighting projects and work with specific hard to reach groups through local media, social media and other avenues in riparian and non-riparian Boroughs, providing updates to Members and ensuring stakeholders are aware of the CAF's impact through the Authority's bi-monthly Stakeholder bulletin.
- 18 It is projected that 70% of the total CAF will be spent by the end of the 2015/16 financial year (£79,000), with a proposed carryover of £34,000.

#### **EVALUATION OF THE CAF PILOT**

- 19 A full evaluation of the CAF pilot will take place upon its completion in September 2016.

#### **REVIEW OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

- 20 As part of the 2016/17-18/19 business plan there will be a review of all Authority services and operations. Community outreach is currently delivered across a number of areas: Sports Development, Youth and Schools and Events. The review of Community Outreach will aim to achieve a more efficient and effective approach to this key area of the Authority's work.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

21 There are no environmental implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

22 To carry forward the under spend in the CAF in 2015/16 estimated at £34,000 into 2016/17.

**HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

23 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

24 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

**RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

25 There are no risk management implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

26 The CAF will improve equality of access to the Regional Park.

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**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee	E/389/15	2015/16 Revenue Budget & Levy	22 January 2015
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**APPENDIX ATTACHED**

Appendix A            Community Groups Engagement

**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CAF                    Community Access Fund

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This chart provides detail on engagement with each of the selected Authorities, the list of community groups each Authority put forward and information on the activity each group will participate in.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Community Group</b>	<b>Activity Booked / Planned</b>	<b>Participation Figures</b>
Lambeth	Streatham Youth and Community Trust	Water wipe out Ice skating	39 participants 8 to 12 year olds
Lambeth	Brixton Wings	Track Cycling Confirming dates	
Lewisham	Lewisham Scouts Somerville Youth and Play Lee Green Youth Club Lethbridge Youth Club	All groups currently being contacted about dates	
Bexley	Bexleyheath Educational Referrals	BMX	15 participants 12+ age group
Bexley	Bexley College Sports Makers	Track Cycling	15 participants 16+ age group
Bexley	Bexley Youth Council	Confirming dates	
Bexley	Woodside Special School	Confirming dates	
Ealing	Sharks Community Paddlesport Club	Confirming dates	
Redbridge	Out There Project / United Friends	Confirming dates	
Decorum	Decorum Indian Society Swan Youth Project	Both groups currently being contacted about dates	
Tower Hamlets	Tower Hamlets College	White Water Rafting	45 participants 16+ age group
Tower Hamlets	Boundary Women Project	Coached MTB session	15 participants 16+ age group
Tower Hamlets	Youth Sports Foundation	Confirming dates	25 participants 12+ age group
Newham	Newham Ability Doorstep Sport Club	All ability cycling	18 participants 14+ age group
Broxbourne	NACRO	White Water Rafting Confirming dates	
Broxbourne	Broxbourne Ethnic Minority Association	Confirming dates	
Broxbourne	Healthy and Active Herts	Confirming dates	
Haringey	London Skolars Rugby League Club	White Water Rafting	27 participants 14 to 18 year olds
Haringey	Haringey Women's FC	Confirming dates	
Epping Forest	Disability Athletics Group	Athletics	10 participants per session. 80 throughputs. Adults
Hackney	North and South Mental Health Project	Confirming dates	
Islington	Currently waiting for community group nominations from the Local Authority		

Uttlesford	Currently waiting for community group nominations from the Local Authority		
Richmond	Currently waiting for community group nominations from the Local Authority		
Waltham Forest	Currently waiting for community group nominations from the Local Authority		

<b>Total Participation Numbers to Date</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Target Participation Numbers</b>	<b>2400</b>