
Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	4 November 2013
Subject	Big Society Innovation Bank Round 3 Awards
Report of	Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships
Summary	This report seeks approval of awards recommended by the Community Assessment Panel for Round 3 of the Big Society Innovation Bank.

Officer Contributors	Helen White – Third Sector Policy Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All wards
Key Decision	No
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	Not applicable
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	Appendix containing summary of the projects recommended.
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1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That Cabinet Resources Committee:

- i. Approve the awards for the projects listed in section 9.13, endorsed by the Community Assessment Panel of local residents, subject to the Standard Conditions of Grant circulated with application forms and any further special conditions to be imposed in relation to adherence with 'due diligence' considerations and any other issues.**
- ii. Note that the remaining £45,192 which remains unallocated will be retained for spending on priority Voluntary and Community Sector issues.**

2 RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Council, 1 March 2011 – approval to invest £200,000 per annum in the Big Society Innovation Bank to support innovative work in civil society.
- 2.2 In 2011 8 projects were awarded funding, totalling £200,000.
- 2.3 In 2012 13 projects were awarded funding, totalling £217,728, one of which was subsequently declined, reducing the total sum awarded to £197,728.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Big Society Innovation Bank reflects national and local policy that aims to give local citizens and communities ('civil society') greater power and responsibility to improve their lives, local communities and public services at a time of serious economic and social challenges.
- 3.2 The Council's Corporate Plan, provides the framework for delivering better services for local residents against the major challenges of increasing population, rising expectation and reduced public budgets.
- 3.3 Development of the Big Society in Barnet seeks, as part of our new relationship with residents, to capitalise on the longstanding creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of civil society in the borough and its potential contribution to these challenges, helping to galvanize innovative new citizen- and community-led projects that address local issues and can survive without public funding.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 All awards from the Big Society Innovation Bank are made subject to a set of standard grant conditions, with which applicants are required to signify their compliance by signing a written undertaking. Amongst other things, the conditions cover how awards are spent, allowing council officers a right of access to proof thereof, and requiring notification of any change in an applicant's circumstances which significantly affects entitlement to a grant. The council reserves the right to withhold payment of any approved grant, or to demand full or partial repayment, if it appears that an applicant has failed to comply with any of the conditions attached to the award.
- 4.2 All applicants have been required to demonstrate that they comply with published eligibility criteria. All organisations applying to the Main Fund of the Innovation Bank must be constituted as a not-for-profit organisation.
- 4.3 The assessment procedure has provided for checks on the status and governance of applicant organisations as well as other 'due diligence' considerations. These will continue in the case of successful applications to ensure their eligibility to receive a grant.
- 4.4 The process of presenting applications and the outcome of their assessment by officers to the Community Assessment Panel may be seen as unfair if any of its members has, or is perceived to have, an interest in any of the applications. The role profile for panel members includes a section on conflict of interest to deal with this issue. Legal advice was taken.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 All projects supported with an award will be required to demonstrate recognition of the diversity of the community in Barnet and sensitivity to the needs of users, including people with protected characteristics and from different cultures. They will be expected to observe all statutory requirements including those relating to equalities, employment practices and non-discrimination.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The budget for making awards from the BSIB was £200,000 per annum.
- 6.2 In 2012/13, thirteen awards were approved from round 2, of which, one project was subsequently declined resulting in an underspend of £26,000 which has been rolled forward to 2013/14.
- 6.3 The budget for making awards from round 3 of the BSIB in 2013/14 is therefore £226,000. This year, £25,000 has been allocated to a separate 'Micro Fund' project, which gives un-constituted groups and individuals, the chance to bid for smaller amounts of funding to kickstart community projects.

A further allocation of £1,000 is set aside for communications and administration expenses.

- 6.4 This paper refers to the £200,000 allocated this year to the 'Main Fund', through which constituted not-for-profit organisations may apply for grants of up to £40,000

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 None save those contained in the body of this report.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Paragraph 4.6 reserves to the Cabinet Resources Committee the power to approve grants to voluntary and community organisations to the value of £20,000 or more.
- 8.2 The awards recommended are presented under this power, notwithstanding the authority vested in the Cabinet Member for Customer Access and Partnerships under paragraph 4.2 to approve awards of up to £20,000, in the interests of having a single approval process rather than two.

9 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 The strategic objectives of the Big Society Innovation Bank are to:
- establish new sustainable, high impact activity in civil society and the voluntary and community sector;
 - facilitate the shift of power from state to citizen, including enabling citizens to make use of new powers and deregulation;
 - speed up civil society's ability to respond to changing social needs by providing a test-bed for innovation;
 - contribute to the new relationship between the public sector and Barnet citizens.
- 9.2 In 2013/14 there is £200,000 available for allocation through the Main Fund of the BSIB.
- 9.3 Round 3 of the Innovation Bank sought projects under five themes: (i) Early Years; (ii) Reducing Isolation in Older People; (iii) Supporting People into Employment; (iv) Skills Sharing; (v) Environment and Conservation.
- 9.4 The application process has been in two stages. Stage 1 asked for proposals in outline, ('Expressions of Interest'), which were reviewed in relation to compliance with the five published themes and eligibility requirements. 40 stage 1 applications were received in response to the first invitation for bids

this year, of which 19 were approved to progress to stage 2. This involved the submission of a more detailed application by 16 September 2013.

- 9.5 Of the 19 applications which succeeded in reaching stage 2, 18 submitted proposals. These applications have been scored by officers against basic pass/fail criteria and then on more detailed weighting scores as set out in the published evaluation framework. Two applications were disqualified on technical grounds. Bids were then presented to delivery unit officers and relevant lead commissioners for comments, which were incorporated into the final scorings.
- 9.6 The assessment procedure of stage 2 bids includes the help of a panel of community representatives (the 'Community Assessment Panel'), chaired by Councillor Rams, to make final recommendations for awards to the Cabinet Resources Committee.
- 9.7 The creation of the Community Assessment Panel and the role it will have in recommending awards from the Innovation Bank complements the localism agenda, which seeks to create a bigger role for civil society to help shape how communities work and how public services get delivered. The involvement of local people from all parts of the community will enhance the decision-making process and serve to ensure that that local people have an input in final decisions on projects supported.
- 9.8 The panel is comprised of eight representatives of the local community, who must reside in the borough and have lived there for at least one year, appointed through an annual recruitment process run by CommUNITY Barnet. Six places are reserved for people aged 18 and over, selected on the basis of their knowledge of the local community, their record of involvement in community activities and any particular skills that they can bring to the process. The aim is to reflect, as far as possible, the interests of older people; women; carers; those with disabilities and sensory impairment; black/ethnic minority communities; the faith sector; and the business community in Barnet. The remaining two places on the panel are reserved for representatives of young people aged 13 to 18, identified through the mechanism of Barnet's Youth Shield.
- 9.9 In the interests of ensuring that panel members have no conflict of interest, membership is excluded to anyone who has an involvement or interest in any application for funding from the Innovation Bank. Exclusions include membership of the managing body of, or paid employment with, a not-for-profit organisation that applies to the bank; association through family relationship with a member of the managing body or a paid employee; volunteering for such an organisation for more than four hours a month; service users; individuals or groups of people that apply; and association through family relationship with any such individuals or group of people.
- 9.10 The applications, together with the officers' scores, were presented to the Community Assessment Panel on 7 October 2013. The panel's recommendations are provided in section 9.13 of this paper.

- 9.11 Subject to approval by Cabinet Resources Committee, terms and conditions for paying the awards will be agreed with applicants, including key milestones, outputs and outcomes against which progress will be monitored and evaluated. Each approved grant will be paid in quarterly instalments linked to the receipt of progress reports on a quarterly basis showing satisfactory progress.
- 9.12 Following the conclusion of the project an evaluation will be undertaken.
- 9.13 Projects recommended by the Community Assessment Panel to receive funding are:

Organisation	Project	Award amount
Arts 89	89 Online	£15,452
The Young Foundation	The U Barnet	£35,419
OYA and BritSom	Kummmunity Kum On!	£29,637
The Reader Organisation	Reading for the Brain	£39,300
TrainE TraidE	Back to Work for Women	£35,000
	Total	£154,808

10 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 Published guidance on applying to the Big Society Innovation Bank.
- 10.2 Stage 2 applications and supporting information to Round 3 of the Innovation Bank.
- 10.3 Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8359 2020.

Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)	JH
Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)	LC

Appendix A: Summary of projects recommended

Arts 89, £15,452

Arts 89 encourages people living with or recovering from mental health problems to develop their artistic skills and vocational development through: class based activities; a placement in a gallery; taking part in craft fairs and fulfilling roles in the social enterprise such as marketing, teaching etc.

Having established as a company limited by guarantee in July 2012, Arts 89 now feels ready to take the enterprise aspect of their work further. The proposal is to set up an on-line shop and gallery which would build on the training and work students and volunteers have already been involved in to date.

The proposal will benefit people living with and recovering from mental health problems by offering work and training in desktop publishing, craft and fine art production, business and administration skills.

The Young Foundation, 'The U' £35,419

The U brings neighbours together through short, lively skill-sharing sessions in appealing topics such as first-aid and conflict resolution. They train local volunteers ('Hosts'), training older and younger people to work together.

Their free sessions are delivered in popular venues including cafes and pubs. They provide opportunities for diverse groups to share a positive experience, foster new connections, reduce isolation and nurture the networks that enable people to take action in their community.

OYA and BritSom, £29,637

OYA and BritSom are community organisations specialising in working with disadvantaged families to bridge the educational attainment gap by providing out-of-school support in English and Maths to children aged 5-19 and advice, advocacy, ESOL and volunteering for families.

This project involves working with immigrant families in two ways:

- a multi-media and multi-lingual approach based on children interviewing parents about their life stories and producing video and written projects which will enhance the communication and English language skills of both generations
- training in the use of a simple tool-kit which will empower parents to ensure that their children can add, subtract, multiply, divide, know their times tables and conquer fractions and percentages (vital components of Key Stages 1, 2 and 3) by the time they are entering Year 10 and embarking on their GCSEs. The skills of parents who are better equipped educationally will be used to develop the skills of those most in need.

The Reader Organisation, £39,300

This project would develop a volunteer-led shared reading project for people with dementia and their carers. Volunteers would work in pairs to deliver inclusive, weekly groups where short stories, novels and poetry are read aloud and in regular 'discussion' breaks people are invited to reflect on the literature and how it might relate to their own lives. Other volunteers would read one-to-one with people using a similar model. The groups would be run in community locations (e.g. libraries and memory cafes), and in residential homes, and would reach people in both the early stages and later stages of dementia, as well as carers. The 1:1 sessions would be run in residential settings. The benefits would be enhanced well-being, reduced social isolation, reductions in some dementia symptoms, and support for carers.

TrainE TraidE, £35,000

This project proposes to identify women who have significant barriers to entering the workplace and who wish to return to work after a career break or enter the workforce for the first time. They will enter into a tailored standalone programme, focusing on areas that they have found challenging. The programme will culminate in a period of work experience that TrainE TraidE has coordinated, in a variety of departments according to the women's career preferences. TrainE TraidE would continue to mentor the participants to assist them in finding permanent placements.

The programme would be launched to over 100 women with a pilot group of 35. The goal is for participants to gain skills and experience leading to permanent employment.

Experienced working women would act as programme mentors and, in the long-term, the women who have successfully completed the programme would be well-placed to mentor participants in future years.