



## Community Leadership Committee

9 March 2016

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| <b>Title</b>                   | <b>Grant 2016/17, Love Burnt Oak</b>                                      |
| <b>Report of</b>               | Cath Shaw, Commissioning Director Growth and Development                  |
| <b>Wards</b>                   | Burnt Oak   |
| <b>Status</b>                  | Public  |
| <b>Urgent</b>                  | No  |
| <b>Key</b>                     | No  |
| <b>Enclosures</b>              | None  |
| <b>Officer Contact Details</b> | Rachel Williamson, Commissioning Group<br>Rachel.williamson@barnet.gov.uk |

### Summary

This report recommends award of £54,858 (2016/17) to Love Burnt Oak, subject to the Council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid to cover the costs of community coordination and the costs of training of a new cohort of volunteer Health Champions in the second year of the Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team (BOOST) pilot project.

### Recommendations

**1. That the Committee approve the following recommendation of an award of £54,858 to Love Burnt Oak, funded from the Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team budget.**

#### 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 That the Committee authorise the award of £54,858 (2016/17) to Love Burnt Oak, subject to the Council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid to cover the costs of their community coordination and the costs of training of a new cohort of volunteer Health Champions in the second year of the Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team (BOOST) pilot project. The role of the grant will be

to facilitate engagement between the Burnt Oak Jobs Team and the community and build capacity in the voluntary sector to support residents to move into work.

- 1.2 The power to award grants to voluntary and community groups is contained in the terms of reference of the Community Leadership Committee in the council's constitution - Annex A of Responsibilities for Functions.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Barnet is part of a successful West London Alliance (WLA) Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) bid called 'Working People, Working Places' that attracted £290,789 to Barnet in 2015. The Transformation Challenge Award is funding from the Department of Communities and Local Government to build on the success of the Community Budget Pilots, to encourage and support places to re-design the way that services are delivered, both within councils and across local public services and the voluntary and community sector, to deliver better outcomes for citizens. The council added £152,000 to the Working People Budget from Transformation reserves. Unspent funds can be 'carried over' to be used in 2016/17. Working People, Working Places is a two year project to test a place based approach to increasing employment. In the second year (2016/17) the project will be independently evaluated by a research organisation appointed by the WLA in order to understand the cost benefit of the approach.
- 2.2 In the second year of the Working People, Working Places project a combination of council funding and European Social Funding will be used to fund the project. The European Funding has been accessed through the West London Alliance through the London Council 'Direct Bidding' opportunity. This process allows the council to match its funding taking the project budget to £403,000. However the signing of the funding agreements with London Councils has been delayed since July 2015 and remains outstanding. It is hoped that funding agreements will be resolved in the next 2 months but timescales are uncertain.
- 2.3 The Barnet Working People, Working Places pilot is called Burnt Oak Opportunity Support Team (BOOST). The team has been in Burnt Oak since May 2015. This project is a multi-agency and community rooted team that aims to support people back into work and improve their wellbeing. It differs from the standard JCP offer in that it aims to reach the whole workless population including non-claimants and those on sickness related benefits. So far the project has engaged 327 local residents and support 115 people into work.

- 2.4 Strong community engagement and ownership is critical to engaging a broader group of local residents and Love Burnt Oak were named in the Transformation Challenge Award bid as the BOOST community partner. Representatives from Love Burnt Oak are also part of the Steering Board responsible for delivery of the project.
- 2.5 In the year 2015/16 up until the 31st December Love Burnt Oak have supported 118 local residents. The 10 health champions recruited and trained by Love Burnt Oak as part of their Area Committee funded project have started supporting the work club and promoting employment alongside other aspects of wellbeing.
- 2.6 Love Burnt Oak have continued to host the Love Burnt Oak Network that brings together the statutory, voluntary and community partners in the local area where the BOOST project has been a standing agenda item. Love Burnt Oak has continued the Work Club, IT classes and a range of workshop sessions on wellbeing, debt, healthy living and energy. Alongside this, additional sessions have been started focusing on young people's employability and job searching techniques. LBO has promoted BOOST at the launch community event, multi-cultural parade, Macmillan Coffee morning, Christmas mince pie evening and Valentine's Day promotion.
- 2.7 Love Burnt Oak has supported other organisations with venues and advice on how to run local workshops. In the next period, sessions on drugs and alcohol, low mood, anxiety and depression are planned.
- 2.8 These activities have met the LBO 2015/16 grant conditions to:
- Facilitate a network of voluntary and community sector organisations that provide support to people who use the Jobs Team and provide some community coordination
  - Run a series of outreach sessions in the Burnt Oak area and co-locate with the Jobs Team where this is practical
  - Identify gaps in the support currently available and support development of voluntary and community sector action to meet those gaps
  - Identify and support volunteers in specific support areas.
  - Support community engagement and community feedback/ evaluation of the project
  - Support community action that support people into work
- 2.9 Love Burnt Oak is a community based registered charity initially supported by Barnet Homes, LBB Innovation Bank and Hendon Area Forum that aims to reduce poverty, support work, education and training particularly among the unemployed, provide support and business advice to people setting up their own business, provide workspace for activities that further social aims and recreational activities for vulnerable groups.
- 2.10 Love Burnt Oak trustees are looking at a range of funding opportunities and income generating strategies in order to sustain their organisation in the longer term beyond 2016/17. This includes engaging with the Mayors Town Centre funding and potential opportunities for developing a business hub,

engaging with the local Primary Care strategy development and JCP contract opportunities.

- 2.11 In order to deliver the BOOST Working People Working Places project as set out in the TCA bid in the second year of its pilot it is recommended to Community Leadership Committee that a grant of £54,858 is made to Love Burnt Oak.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 To not fund community support to the BOOST project. Not recommended as the BOOST team must reach those not regularly in contact with statutory services in order to deliver the expected outcomes and return on investment. Community support provides a much needed link to local residents and encourages residents to seek support.
- 3.2 To fund Love Burnt Oak from the West London Alliance European Social Fund budget along with the rest of the BOOST project. Not recommended as the European funding has been significantly delayed (due to start in July 2015 and still to commence). This delay places a level of uncertainty upon Love Burnt Oak that its reserves cannot bear given its small size. In addition the bureaucratic burden of European funding is significant and overly onerous for an organisation of LBO's size.

### **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The applicants will be formally notified of the decision to award a grant. The grant will be made subject to the Council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid
- 4.2 A monitoring schedule will be drawn up with Love Burnt Oak to monitor the activity listed in paragraph 2.3. This will include the following outcomes and targets agreed with Love Burnt Oak
- 4.3 Inputs
- Participation in the Working People, Working Places Steering Group chaired by London Borough of Brent
  - Participation in the local operational group
  - Dedicated staff resource to contribute to the Jobs Team
  - Use of the shared database for tracking outcomes

#### 4.4 Outcomes

- Contribution to improved employment outcomes measured through evidence of community involvement in 50 job outcomes
- Improved individual wellbeing measured through distance travelled measures completed with residents
- Increase in people's digital inclusion measured through access to training, PC use and brokering of affordable home broadband and hardware
- 100 new users are attracted to use support in Burnt Oak
- 10 new volunteer health champions are recruited to support employment and wellbeing in Burnt Oak
- 2 new groups or activities are set up as directed by the needs of service users accessing the jobs team
- Existing groups/ activities continue where there is active demand
- Premises and places are identified for people to meet or activities to take place
- Improved engagement with local GPs on shared agendas of health and wellbeing

### 5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

#### 5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 The Corporate Plan, 2015-2020, identifies a set of strategic objectives which frame the council's approach to achieving its vision of making local services more integrated, intuitive and efficient by 2020, aimed at ensuring that Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

5.1.2 The outcome around which these objectives are prioritised include:

- To work with Jobcentre Plus, Barnet and Southgate College and providers of the Government's Work Programme to deliver its Partnership Agreement aimed at reducing unemployment, with a focus on supporting vulnerable and hard to reach people into work; developing career pathways into higher level jobs in the care sector; and maximising retail and construction opportunities that derive from regeneration activity across the borough.

5.1.3 A core focus of the new Corporate Plan will be targeted support to ensure that all residents benefit from the significant opportunities which flow from Barnet being part of a growing and arguably booming London economy. Fewer Barnet residents are claiming out-of-work benefits than the London average. However there is more to do to ensure that all residents of Barnet can benefit from the opportunities of growth, whether through new employment opportunities or enjoying new neighbourhoods and places in which all people can live and age well. Burnt Oak has been selected as the area for this project as it has relatively high unemployment rates and high deprivation. This project

supports employment and tackles particular barriers; be it, health, multiple disadvantaged families or long term unemployment. The business case highlights that in order to do something about these intractable issues it is important to do things differently.

5.1.4 The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in the delivery of public services having regard to the reduction in government funding, not only by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money but also by developing innovative solutions to problems and improving customers' perception of public services.

5.1.5 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the former Cabinet Resources Committee in 2008, has brought:

- consistency to the council's financial arrangements with the voluntary and community sector; and
- procurement from, and grants to, the sector into a single framework consistent with the council's procurement rules

5.1.6 The Working People, Working Places Transformation Challenge Award bid was successful because it demonstrated how Barnet was a place with ambitious plans to work in partnership across the public sector and with the voluntary and community sector or private sector to re-design services. Love Burnt Oak was named as a partner in the bid because of its role in the community as an umbrella organisation bringing together local residents and providers of community and public services to address local issues and need in a more streamlined and cost effective way.

5.1.7 The BOOST project is recognised as good practice in the 2016-2020 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy under the 'Wellbeing in the Community' priority. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy recognises the importance of health and work in people's lives and that partners must work to help residents to increase their incomes and improve their wellbeing. Development of a network of Health Champions is part of the Health and Wellbeing Action plan supporting increased wellbeing in the community and reduced social isolation.

5.1.8 The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment describes that;

- Barnet has a lower than average percentage of people with mental health conditions and learning disabilities in work than other areas
- There are significant differences in the proportion of working-age people receiving Job Seekers Allowance in different wards, the areas with the highest proportions being in Burnt Oak, Childs Hill and Underhill.

The BOOST project and the Love Burnt Oak contributions seek to increase employment outcomes for all residents in Burnt Oak, the area of highest unemployment in the borough.

**5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

5.2.1 The provision for this £54,858 grant is from the budget for the BOOST project which is managed within the Growth and Development Unit. In 2015/16 this has been funded from the Transformation Challenge Award (£291K) from the Department of Communities and Local Government and council transformation funds (£152k in 2015/16). The proposal is to fund Love Burnt Oak directly from council transformation funds.

### **5.3 Social Value**

5.3.1 All volunteers with Love Burnt Oak are supported with their own personal development as well as how they can improve outcomes for others. Love Burnt Oak has examples of where former volunteers have used the opportunity as a stepping stone towards employment. In this manner Love Burnt Oak volunteering opportunities contribute to raising incomes and improving wellbeing in the area.

### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 The council has power to make grants awards under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.4.2 Under the Council's Constitution (Responsibility for Functions – Annex A) specific responsibility for the Community Leadership Committee includes:

- Grants to Voluntary Sector within the remit of the Committee
- To maintain good relations with Barnet's diverse communities ensuring that all communities have the opportunity to participate in the borough's affairs

5.4.3 The recommendation to award £54,858 to Love Burnt Oak is in keeping with the aim of the Barnet Council's successful business case and bid for the Working People, Working Places project.

### **5.5 Risk Management**

5.5.1 All grants are made subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, 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 organisation's circumstances which significantly affect its finances, operations or grant entitlement. The council reserves the right to withhold payment of any approved grant, or to demand full or partial repayment, if it appears that an organisation has failed to comply with any of the conditions attached to the award.

5.5.2 The shift towards greater community involvement in the delivery of services has involved some relaxation in the attitude traditionally taken to compliance with eligibility criteria before an award is recommended. Whilst all applicants are expected to satisfy basic governance requirements, it is accepted that community-led and self-help groups may initially require the support of a parent organisation or other agency.

### **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council and all other

organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race, religion or belief; and sex and sexual orientation. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into daily business and keep them under review in decision making; the design of policies; and the delivery of services.

5.6.2 All voluntary and community organisations grant-aided by the council are required to demonstrate that they have an equal opportunities policy covering users, staff and volunteers, which promotes equal treatment for all irrespective of their age, disability, gender, sexuality, ethnic background, faith, health, language or social and economic background. Scrutiny of compliance with these considerations and how they contribute to promoting good relations between people and communities forms part of the standard procedure for assessing all applications.

5.6.3 The grant support activities to benefit people from all communities with a focus on those who may be regarded as vulnerable, as in the case of the grant recommended.

## **5.7 Consultation and Engagement**

5.7.1 The proposal has been reviewed in conjunction with the Public Health Service and the BOOST team managed by Barnet Homes and comprised of council, JobCentre and Barnet Homes staff.

## **5.8 Insight**

5.8.1 The BOOST team have produced a range of insight about who is engaging with the support, barriers to work and outcomes. The team have identified a need to engage with a broader range of residents, particularly those who are long term sick.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?CommitteeId=151&MeetingId=424&DF=22%2f07%2f2008&Ver=2>

6.1.2 Community Leadership Committee, 11 March 2015 (agenda item 10), approval of an award of £40,000 (2015/16) to Love Burnt Oak, subject to the Council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid to cover the costs of their Community Coordinator.



<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=7877&Ver=4>

- 6.1.3 Community Leadership Committee, 11 March 2015 (agenda item 10) to receive a further report with update on the progress made following approval of the award to Love Burnt Oak.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=694&MId=7877&Ver=4>