

**MEETING: 26/09/2019**

**Ref: 15347**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**

**Kentish Town City Farm Ltd**

**Adv: Lily Brandhorst**

**Base: Camden**

**Amount requested: £82,800**

**Benefit: Camden**

**Amount recommended: £82,800**

**The Applicant**

Kentish Town City Farm (KTCF) was established in 1972, and is a working farm providing an essential green, open space in the heart of the city. It offers an immersive, hands-on experience in farming, gardening and animal care, enabling many local children to learn about the vital role natural environments play in everyday life. For Camden's most vulnerable individuals it provides unique farm-based therapeutic and developmental activities to help them cope with disability and disadvantage. It also provides the public with a peaceful and relaxing green oasis in the middle of the urban environment. It has over 35,000 visitors of all ages annually, including approximately 5,500 school children, teachers and parents through its education programme.

**The Application**

KTCF seeks a further two years of funding towards the salary of a full-time Education Officer and associated project costs. Each year, the Education Officer will:

- Plan and lead 200 environmental education visits for over 4,000 children, plus teachers and parents.
- Prepare and supervise 20 corporate volunteering days for 500+ volunteers, with outdoor environmental activities such as maintenance, repairs, gardening and animal care.
- Lead on the creation of engaging educational displays, activities and festivals themed around the land and environment, reaching an expected audience of more than 2,000.

Through the above activities, members of the local community will come together through shared activities and improve their knowledge and appreciation of environmental issues. Corporate volunteers will be carrying out tasks of genuine value to the farm and will also grow the awareness of topics such as biodiversity.

**The Recommendation**

KTCF has decades of experience successfully delivering community education activities and has trained hundreds of young people in animal care. It is treasured by the local community and attracts school groups, families and individuals from across London. The current three-year grant towards the Education programme has been delivered well, with excellent feedback from teachers. A grant is recommended as follows:

***£82,800 over two further and final years (£41,400 x 2) towards the salary and project costs of a full-time Education Officer. The second year of this grant is conditional upon receipt of satisfactory management accounts at the end of the first year.***

## Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
31/01/2018	£2,600(6.5 days @ £400 per day) to provide an eco-audit.
18/03/2016	£118,300 over three years (£38,850, £39,450, £40,000) for the salary of a full-time Education Officer, together with the associated project running costs.
10/09/2009	£115,500 over three years (£37,500; £38,500; £39,500) for the salary and project costs of an Education Development Officer.
27/02/2003	£87,000 over three years (£29,000, £28,250, £29,750) for the salary and project costs of an Education Development Officer.

### Background and detail of proposal

The City Bridge Trust has supported KTCF's Education Worker on several occasions since 2003. The post-holder is responsible for developing, delivering and monitoring the farm's education programme in consultation with schools, playgroups and the local community. They are also on-hand during the visit to answer visitors' questions about the farm's plants, animals and natural spaces, and support corporate volunteering days. The current Education Officer has been in post for 14 years. Funded work has always been carried out to a high standard, with excellent feedback from beneficiaries.

### Financial Information

The farm ended 2018 and 2019 in deficit but is aiming to reduce spending in 2020 to reverse this trend. 2018/19 saw considerable conflict between staff and trustees over how to ensure the farm's long-term sustainability without compromising its values. This has been resolved and a new board is now in place. The anticipated deficit on restricted funds in 2020 will be covered by a projected unrestricted surplus.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	305,406	436,073	367,687
- % of income confirmed as at 31/7/19	N/A	N/A	68%
Expenditure	(351,909)	(438,737)	(360,155)
Bad Debt	0	0	(3,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(46,503)	(2,664)	4,532
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(43,928)	7,092	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(2,575)	(9,756)	4,532
	(46,503)	(2,664)	4,532
Cost of Raising Funds	13,654	18,320	7,966
- % of income	4.5%	4.2%	2.2%
Total expenditure	351,909	438,737	360,155
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	93,724	83,968	88,500
No of months of operating expenditure	3.2	2.3	2.9
Reserves policy target	87,977	109,018	91,922
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.1
Free reserves over/(under) target	5,747	(25,050)	(3,422)