

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**The Bike Project****Adv: Shegufta Slawther****Base: Southwark****Benefit: London-Wide****Amount requested: £104,568****{Revised request: £106,800}****Amount recommended: £106,800****The Applicant**

The Bike Project (TBP) registered as a charity in 2013 with a mission to get refugees cycling. It has four main objectives: to provide relief for those seeking asylum and granted refugee status and their dependants who are in conditions of need, hardship or distress; to develop the skills and capacity of socially disadvantaged communities to better identify their needs and participate fully in society; to advance the education of all ages of the public in the safe use, reuse and maintenance of bicycles; and, the protection and preservation of the environment in particular by saving bicycles from landfills and promoting reuse and recycling. TBP has a social enterprise arm that refurbishes second-hand bikes and sells them to the public to support its sustainability.

The Application

Asylum seekers and refugees are one of the most disadvantaged groups in London. A lack of mobility prevents them from accessing services they need to build a new life. TBP is seeking a contribution towards the salaries of the London Operations Manager and a Bike Mechanic. The full-time London Operations Manager role will be part funded by the organisation's own resources. The Bike Mechanics are crucial to the delivery of the charity's work; one full-time mechanic refurbishing 200 bikes a year for donation.

The Recommendation

The charity has demonstrated a strong track record with its unique business model and service delivery. Significant funding has already been secured from other trusts and foundations as well as a substantial amount from its earned income. The original request was for a post that has subsequently been fully funded. The amount recommended is at a higher level due to the increase in proportion requested for the London Operations Manager.

£106,800 over three years (£35,600 x 3) towards the salaries of the London Operations Manager (4 dpw) and a Bike Mechanic (2 dpw) for London delivery.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
24/11/2016	£40,000 over 12 months towards the salary of 1.5 FTE bike mechanics.

Background and detail of proposal

The charity has gathered monitoring data that demonstrates the positive outcomes and impact of donating a refurbished bike to asylum seekers and refugees. Beneficiaries have reported a threefold increase in their trip frequency of access to support services with 61% travelling for this purpose three to four times per week or

more. The number of people that reported never accessing support services halved after receiving a bike. Whilst 68% of people had never used a bike as transport before, 88% were using their donated bike some or all of the time. Increased physical activity has proven to result in improved physical and mental health, especially for people who have experienced severe trauma.

TBP provides additional support through its Bike Buddies and Pedal Power programmes. The former programme matches refugee cyclists with a buddy in their local area to help build confidence using their bike, the latter is free, group cycling lessons for refugee women that inspires and supports participants to feel the freedom of their own bike. Beneficiaries are also offered the opportunity to train and volunteer with the Bike Mechanics. The London Operations Manager role is key in the creation and development of such programmes that support the mission of the charity.

Financial Information

The jump in income in 2019 is due to the charity's growing operations outside of London, specifically in Birmingham. As well as this expansion, the organisation is investing more into its programmes of support, volunteering and increasing the number of mechanics.

Cost of raising funds is quite high, however, this includes the appropriate proportion of the cost of mechanics to reflect their work on the second-hand bikes that are then sold to the general public as a source of unrestricted income for the charity. The deficit in restricted funds in 2020 will be covered by unrestricted funds.

The charity has recently appointed new trustees and expects the reserves policy to be reviewed and potentially increased from its current two months.

Year end as at 31st December	2018 Audited Accounts £	2019 Forecast £	2020 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	717,480	938,913	969,485
- % of Income confirmed as at 19/8/19	N/A	57%	0%
Expenditure	(729,433)	(900,635)	(964,010)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(11,953)	38,278	5,475
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	15,620	952	(24,862)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(27,573)	37,326	30,337
	(11,953)	38,278	5,475
Cost of Raising Funds	296,557	366,160	391,926
- % of Income	41.3%	39.0%	40.4%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	526,847	405,716	602,083
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	55,102	92,428	122,765
No of months of operating expenditure	1.3	2.7	2.4
Reserves policy target	87,808	67,619	100,347
No of months of operating expenditure	2.0	2.0	2.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(32,706)	24,809	22,418