

MEETING: 30/01/2020

Ref: 15424

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital****Wheels for Wellbeing****Adv: Kate Moralee****Amount requested: £288,411****Base: Lambeth****Benefit: Lambeth, Lewisham,  
Croydon****Amount recommended: £288,400****The Applicant**

Wheels for Wellbeing (WfW) is a registered charity formed in 2007. It is a user led organisation adopting a social model of disability. It provides both activities for participation and a campaigning and policy voice. It delivers inclusive open drop in sessions for disabled people (including people with learning difficulties) their families and friends, across 3 different venues in South London. It has evolved to become the voice of disabled cyclists in the UK, with success including the publication of a Guide to Inclusive Cycling. Its campaigns span a range of issues, from improving the inclusivity of cycling infrastructure to seeking recognition for cycles as a mobility aid.

**The Application**

City Bridge Trust is asked to support Session Managers, Cycling Instructors and a Community Engagement Officer (1fte across all posts) and associated costs to deliver five (rising to seven) open inclusive cycling drop-in sessions per week. The Community Engagement Officer will deliver an outreach programme and work with session participants to create a cohort of Ambassadors.

**The Recommendation**

WfW has grown since 2007, when City Bridge Trust was one of its first investors. It is a Disabled People User-Led Organisation with all work informed by the personal experience of disabled participants. The delivery of its core drop-in sessions is critical to give it the credibility of being a voice for disabled cyclists in the campaigning and policy arena. This application fits the criteria of your Connecting the Capital, Londoners experiencing inequality or disadvantage having greater wellbeing and independence through improved access to sports priority area. Funding is recommended:

***£288,400 over 5 years (£58,320; £59,640; £55,100; £59,480, £55,860) towards the provision of fully accessible inclusive cycling opportunities in Lewisham, Croydon and Lambeth.***

**Funding History**

No recent funding history

**Background and detail of proposal**

Your officer attended a WfW indoor disabled cycling session in Lewisham where she observed a diverse range of people (age, disability, ethnicity, etc) attending and enjoying the session. The session was an open session with every adapted cycle being used throughout the session. Demand is high for this and other open sessions. Some organisations e.g. Stroke Society book separate sessions to try out the sessions giving space to their service users.

This particular session is delivered in a centre which is next door to both a dementia unit and a pupil referral unit. Pupils from the PRU volunteer at every session, this has developed organically and is an excellent example of unintended outcomes from delivering a project. The dementia unit has its own session too, called down memory lane, where the PRU volunteers help. This has facilitated the development of relationships between the generations and highlighted strengths of the young people who may be struggling elsewhere in their lives.

This project aims to expand its reach by supporting the development of Inclusive Cycling Ambassadors, supported by the Community Engagement officer. The project recognises that its users have links into the community e.g. through GP's, Hospital Consultants, Social Workers, places of worship etc, and can market the service much better than anyone. The Community Engagement Officer will support individuals to do this and will develop leaflets, information pack which can be left in venues.

### Financial Information

WfW has diversified its income streams since the end of a single source grant from a major funder in 2016. This created the impetus for WfW to diversify its income sources to create greater sustainability. During this transition WfW is using its free reserves to ensure sustainability of its core offer (cycling sessions) when there have been gaps (eg, WfW submitted this application to CBT in April 2019 with a view to funding commencing in October 2019). WfW have found it difficult to secure funding for existing core offer and are not quite confident yet of securing ongoing funding for core offer before considering expansion.

It generates approximately 50% of its income from participant charges, sales and donations with the remainder secured mainly from Trusts and Foundations. It has recently appointed a fundraiser to develop a clear fundraising strategy and to ensure that the Director can focus on wider strategic development.

Year end as at 31st March	2018	2019	2020
	Signed Accounts £	Draft Accounts £	Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	384,905	232,528	275,900
- % of Income confirmed as at 13/11/2019	N/A	N/A	54%
Expenditure	(330,912)	(267,686)	(275,900)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>53,993</b>	<b>(35,158)</b>	<b>0</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(36,239)	4,968	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	90,232	(40,126)	0
	<b>53,993</b>	<b>(35,158)</b>	<b>0</b>
Total expenditure (unrestricted funds)	330,912	267,686	275,900
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	347,221	299,735	299,735
No of months of total expenditure	12.6	13.4	13.0
Reserves policy target	165,456	133,843	137,730
No of months of total expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	181,765	165,892	162,005