

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**Surrey Docks Farm****Adv: Rebecca Green****Base: Southwark****Benefit: Southwark****Amount requested: £148,031****Amount recommended: £148,000****The Applicant**

Surrey Docks Farm Provident Society (Surrey Docks Farm) is a registered society (formally industrial and provident society) occupying 2.2 acres on the south bank of the Thames at Rotherhithe. The farm, now in its 42nd year, aims to provide opportunities for all communities in Southwark and surrounding areas to: engage with a working farm; learn about animal care, horticulture, food production and nutrition; and learn about natural environment. The farm has a focus on environmental sustainability including energy reduction and harvesting renewables. Free of charge to visitors, it hosts a Farm Shop and café and runs a gardening workshop with projects including youth clubs, educational visits and training programmes for adults with learning disabilities.

The Application

Surrey Docks Farm is requesting funding for its 'Putting Down Roots in Rotherhithe' project. Delivered by a dedicated team (a Green Mentor and a Horticulture Apprentice), the project will: centralise the farm's environmental work and establish the farm as a centre for environmental education; to engage the local community in growing and greening activities as part of a 'Green Network'; and deliver activities including food growing and cooking more widely. The application is for 5 years tapered funding which will be supplemented through grants, growing and greening contracts with local developers and income generated through delivering accredited courses and the sale of produce grown.

The Recommendation

The farm is involved with a consortium of neighbouring environmental groups and works closely with local developers, Southwark Council and housing associations to promote green amenities. It has delivered various activities in the local area and has been approached by interested members of the community who are interested in being involved. With an existing network in a basic form, and as the only city farm in the borough, it is in a good place to develop this work for residents and farm visitors.

£148,000 over 5 years (£37,100; £35,300; £32,800; £24,900; £17,900) towards the Putting Down Roots in Rotherhithe project including a contribution to a FT Green Mentor (4dpw tapering down to 2dpw), a FT Horticulture Apprentice (1dpw) and project costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
15/06/2017	Withdrawn
18/07/2012	£111,000 over three years (£47,000; £35,000; £29,000) for the Co-ordinator's salary and other costs of the Joining Up project.

Background and detail of proposal

Surrey Docks Farm is based in Rotherhithe, north Southwark, where significant redevelopment has been taking place and a 70% increase in population is forecast

over the next 10 years. The farm works closely with developers to ensure that open and green spaces are included in these changes and to keep residents informed about protecting their environment and keeping it green. In Lambeth and Southwark, 1 in 4 10-11 year olds are recorded as obese, and the farm aims to work closely with families in the community, to offer outdoor activities and education about nutrition, growing and cooking.

The farm hopes to establish itself as a local centre for environmental education through its Putting Down Roots in Rotherhithe project, supporting residents and visitors, delivering accredited training programmes and improving environmental education (including development of information on its website and improved signage around the farm for the benefit and education of all visitors). The second strand of work is to develop a green network to encourage residents to champion green spaces. This wider network will involve direct support for up to 300 residents a year in initiating growing and greening projects, engagement with developers and landlords, and networking and events to promote local green activities. The final strand is for food growing and cooking with fresh produce. This will include monthly workshops and courses, and food growing sessions and cooking courses for young people and families (approximately 100 people a year). It receives many more enquiries of people who would like to be involved, to learn or to volunteer, than it is currently able to manage. Increased capacity through this project intends to harness this interest. The vast majority of activities will be free for the user and targeted at disadvantaged groups and local residents.

Financial Information

More than 60% of income is generated through fees, sales, charges and hires, and a significant amount (£210k) of the income yet to be raised for 2018/19 is through this generated income and so is based on estimates from previous years.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Audited Accounts £	2018 Draft Accounts £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	526,133	471,227	425,035
- % of income confirmed as at 24/08/2018	n/a	n/a	44%
Expenditure	(511,619)	(438,455)	(418,071)
Total surplus/(deficit)	14,514	32,772	6,964
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	3,810	(6,470)	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	10,703	39,242	6,964
	14,513	32,772	6,964
Cost of Raising Funds	22,529	21,348	18,395
- % of Income	4.3%	4.5%	4.3%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	305,273	306,411	288,489
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	71,140	100,023	106,987
No of months of operating expenditure	2.8	3.9	4.5
Reserves policy target	76,318	76,603	72,122
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(5,178)	23,420	34,865