

MEETING: 28/01/2015

Ref: 12233

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving London's Environment**

**Bridge Renewal Trust**

**Adv: Jenny Field**

**Amount requested: £72,827**

**Base: Haringey**

**Benefit: Haringey**

**Amount recommended: £72,900**

**The Charity**

Bridge Renewal Trust grew out of a regeneration initiative in South Tottenham. It manages two community buildings which provide affordable accommodation for a number of local groups and a steady income stream for the charity. Its main aims are to reduce health inequalities by encouraging people to make healthy lifestyle choices; to work collaboratively and in partnership with others in projects to enhance people's well-being; and to ensure people can access the right balance of medical help and healthy living support to maintain good health.

**The Application**

One of its community centres has under-utilised outdoor space which it wishes to transform into a community garden to be used by local families and schools, through a programme of activities comprising gardening, cooking and well-being.

**The Recommendation**

Bridge Renewal Trust has a good track record in community participation. Families who learn food growing skills through this project will be encouraged to continue gardening either through one of the micro-allotments at the Community Centre or by signposting to other allotment schemes or similar initiatives locally.

***£72,900 over three years (£24,500; £24,000; £24,400) towards a food growing, cookery and family well-being programme.***

**Funding History**

None

**Background and detail of proposal**

Bridge Renewal Trust runs a wide range of health-related activities from its two centres which include alternative therapies, yoga, smoking cessation sessions and chiropody. It trains Community Champions who support local people in making health improvements such as weight management, healthy eating, keeping active and staying safe at home. It also supports local people back into the workplace through its Work Club and volunteering opportunities.

There are essentially three strands to this programme. Firstly, to teach families gardening skills and to cook the produce they grow in the community centres. Once they have completed the course, they will be helped in finding an alternative site if they do not have a garden of their own. Secondly, it will run sessions in local schools. It will run sessions on growing and cooking for children and young people drawn principally, but not exclusively, from two nearby primary schools and a local secondary school. Finally, the local community will be engaged in maintaining and developing the grounds of the community centre.

## Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year is £529,098, of which £449,559 (85%) had been confirmed as at 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014. This forecast is £146,989 (38%) higher than the previous year's total income and includes increased service and rental income due to an increase in the number of lettings of one its buildings, following its refurbishment in the previous year, as well as several grants towards a Community Champions Project and a Community Hut Food Growing Project. The unconfirmed income of £79,539 (15%) relates to pending grant applications, which includes this request to City Bridge Trust.

Free unrestricted reserves are forecast to be £136,433 at the end of the current year on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. This level of reserves equates to 3 months' worth of total expenditure, which is below the charity's target to hold 6 months' worth. Bridge Renewal Trust hopes to generate further rental income as a result of the refurbishment of one of its community centres in 2013/14, which it is hoped will increase unrestricted reserves towards its target level.

Bridge Renewal Trust's audited accounts for the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 do not include a figure for the 'Cost of Generating Funds'. An estimate has been provided for the current year, which is based on 10% of the CEO's time spent on fundraising activities. This was discussed with the organisation during the assessment and it was agreed that it would review this with its board of trustees and auditor.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts £	2014/15 Current Year Forecast £
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>		
Income	382,109	529,098
Expenditure	436,316	553,464
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(71,802)	(24,366)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	17,595	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(54,207)	(24,366)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(14.2%)	(4.6%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	-	7,000 (1.3%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	160,799	136,433
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.4	3.0
Reserves Policy target	216,158	276,732
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(55,359)	(140,299)