

**MEETING: 23/09/2015**

**Ref: 12826**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Older Londoners**

**MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology)**

**Adv: Jenny Field**

**Amount requested: £153,066**

**Base: Hackney**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount recommended: £87,400**

**The Charity**

Originally part of the Museum of London, Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) is an experienced archaeology and built heritage practice. It became an independent incorporated charity in August 2011, in order to grow its business and the reach and impact of its charitable work. Its activities include survey, fieldwork, research and publication projects - most of which are the result of the National Planning Policy Framework which requires that archaeological services deliver a public benefit. It also runs a range of community archaeology projects, all of which offer myriad volunteering opportunities, including its award-winning Thames Discovery Project and its England-wide community archaeological project, CITIZAN (Coastal and International Zone Archaeological Network).

**The Application**

Building on the success of its Thames Discovery project, which has attracted significant numbers of older people (including those aged 75+) MOLA proposes to develop a new project specifically targeting those aged over 75 with a programme of educational activities, events and talks. The programme will include a strong digital component for the benefit of those not able to physically access the foreshore.

**The Recommendation**

You are asked to support one new post, a full-time Community Archaeologist, and one existing part-time Field Officer. The latter post is currently funded from MOLA's own resources. It is recommended that you fund the Community Archaeologist post, together with the associated running costs. You would usually only fund one FTE post in a project of this nature.

***£87,400 over three years (£28,560; £29,130; £29,710) towards the salary and associated running costs of a Community Archaeologist to run a programme of activities targeting Londoners aged over 75 years.***

**Funding History**

None

**Background and detail of proposal**

It is hoped to work directly with at least 100 over-75s each year. The programme will be delivered at older people's projects, including residential homes, libraries and social clubs.

An oral history project, 'Remembering the River' will form part of the programme. Once the largest port in the world, by the late 1960s the Port of London was in terminal decline as new container ships took over from bulk cargo vessels and

Tilbury became their preferred landing. As oil and gas replaced coal as the fuel for power stations, port facilities in London fell into disuse. Much of the physical infrastructure, such as cranes and windlasses, has been destroyed and many of the surviving warehouses have been converted into luxury flats. Little of London's maritime heritage remains and it is proposed that this project will harness the rich memories of those who worked, played and lived along the Thames before its current transformation.

The project will have its own area on MOLA's website and IT training and support will be provided, alongside training in archaeological field techniques, such as sketching, photography, planning and recording; computer aided design; and social networking.

### Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year is £10,302,000, of which £4,079,000 (40%) had been secured by July 2015. Turnover is forecast to increase by 36% compared to 2014/15 which the charity advised is due to the continued upturn in the property development and construction market leading directly to growth in its work, which led to the securing of a number of large projects within the City and wider London area.

The charity advised that its Trustees plan to adopt a formal reserves policy at their board meeting in autumn, the details of which have not been made available. At 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 its free unrestricted funds stood at £0.9m, which are estimated to rise to £1.9m by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 equivalent to 2.4 months' worth of total expenditure.

The charity advised that its cost of generating funds is low as the majority of its income is through commissions and fee earning work. During 2014/15 it advised that it recruited a Development Officer to advance its charitable educational work (i.e this application to CBT) and that this growth in its fundraising capacity will increase its costs of generating funds in future years.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Draft Outturn	2015/16 Current Year Forecast
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	7,204,532	7,558,000	10,302,000
Expenditure	6,886,982	7,309,000	9,548,000
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	317,550	249,000	754,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	317,550	249,000	754,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	4.4%	3.3%	7.3%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	31,170 (0.4%)	100,000 (1.3%)	150,000 (1.5%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	893,380	1,142,380	1,896,380
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.6	1.9	2.4
Reserves Policy target	n/a	n/a	n/a
How many months' worth of expenditure	n/a	n/a	n/a
Free reserves over/(under) target	n/a	n/a	n/a