

MEETING: 22/09/2016

Ref: 13446

## ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving London's Environment

### School Food Matters

Amount requested: £87,100

{Revised request: £88,840}

Amount recommended: £88,840

Adv: Jack Joslin

Base: Richmond

Benefit: Waltham Forest,  
Sutton, Enfield, Camden,  
Croydon

### The Charity

School Food Matters (SFM) is a registered charity, founded in 2007 and born out of a grassroots campaign to improve the school meal service in two London boroughs – Richmond and Kingston. SFM's mission is to ensure that every child enjoys fresh sustainable food at school and understands where their food comes from, and it has now developed networks and links in several more London boroughs.

### The Application

In 2014-15, SFM worked with a number of secondary schools in London who were keen to engage with food education. Schools fed back that there were fewer opportunities for secondary schools in London in comparison to the programmes available for primary schools. The 'Know your Onions' project will engage with 15 secondary schools across 5 boroughs (Waltham Forest, Sutton, Enfield, Camden and Croydon) and aims to give schools the assistance they need to develop a food-growing programme so that students can better understand the benefits of growing fresh fruit and vegetables. SFM will manage and facilitate the programme through a timetable of activities including visits from horticulturalists and expert chefs. An enterprise element will introduce students to the value of food and help them connect with their communities through visits to local street markets. The project, which is outside the school curriculum, will take place over an academic year, and repeat with a different cohort of students in years 2 and 3.

### The Recommendation

This food growing project fits closely with your Improving London's Environment priority by allowing more young people to understand the benefit of growing local food, and its nutritional value. SFM is an established organisation with a good track record of managing food education projects in schools. Following discussion with your officer at assessment, the original request was revised and now includes 2% inflation costs in years 2 and 3. Funding is advised as follows:

**£88,840 over three years (£29,500; £29,380; £29,960) for project management and associated costs of the 'Know your Onions' project.**

### Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
02/12/2010	Declined as aspects of the proposal fell outside your criteria.

### Background and detail of proposal

The National Child Measurement Programme 2014/15 states that over 37% of 10-11 year olds in London are obese or overweight which is higher than the national average. The Government's Health Select Committee Report listed some appropriate actions to tackle this, and highlights the importance of "improved education and information about diet". SFM has operated since 2007 and focuses on campaigning and food education. It has built a network of partners across London

including local authorities, schools and interested partners such as supermarkets, chefs and local street markets. The charity is requesting your funding in order to manage a food-growing programme in 15 secondary schools per year (with a total of approximately 450 students to be involved per year). Building on SFM's previous work with schools, the 'Know your Onions' project will facilitate schools to carry out the project by establishing a learning network with teachers and organising a schedule of activities for students throughout the academic year. The project will repeat with a different set of students in year 2 and year 3. Funding is for project management, in addition to direct costs involved in running the project.

### Financial Information

As at 26 July 2016, forecast income in the current year (to 31st August 2016) is £110,558 of which £110,558 (100 %) is confirmed and forecast income for the year to 31st August 2017 is £135,255 of which £25,284 (19%) is confirmed.

The free unrestricted reserves are higher than the organisation's reserves policy of 3 to 6 months. SFM run a financial year which follows the academic year and allocates its grants accordingly. Therefore funds being carried at any given year end, will in part be allocated to project and salaries costs to be incurred in the following financial year. Whilst not strictly designated funds, at 31st August 2015, allocated spend on project and salary costs in the following year represented 50% of unrestricted reserves. At 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016 and 31st August 2017, the charity anticipates that 31% and 40% of its forecast unrestricted reserves held on those dates will be allocated to project and salary costs for the respective following financial years.

Cost of generating funds was not disclosed in the 2014/15 Accounts. SFM has agreed to review this in future years and give a reasonable estimate of this expenditure for the current and next financial year.

During the assessment your Officer noted a lack of understanding of charity reporting and accounting at SFM, this has been acknowledged and they are taking steps to improve by: finding a new Independent Examiner with expertise in Charity Accounting; setting up a Finance sub-committee for the Board, seeking support from their charity partners and providing further training for their Finance Manager.

Year end at 31 August	2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts £	2015/16 Current Year Forecast £	2016/17 Following Year Forecast £
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
Income	200,406	110,558	135,255
Expenditure	163,906	146,660	134,869
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	28,259	(36,102)	386
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	8,241	0	0
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>36,500</b>	<b>(36,102)</b>	<b>386</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	18 %	(32%)	0.3%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	-	8,208 (7.4%)	7,865 (5.8%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	135,322	99,220	99,606
How many months' worth of expenditure	9.9	8.1	8.9
Reserves Policy target	40,976 – 81,953	36,665 – 73,330	33,717 – 67,434
How many months' worth of expenditure	3 – 6	3 – 6	3 – 6
Free reserves over/(under) target	94,346 - 53,369	62,555 – 25,890	65,889 – 32,172