

**MEETING: 24/11/2016**

**Ref: 13524**

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

**CREATE London**

**Adv: Jack Joslin**

**Base: City**

**Benefit: Barking & Dagenham**

**Amount requested: £92,205**

**{Revised Request: £104,900}**

**Amount recommended: £42,400**

**The Charity**

CREATE London exists to explore how artists can contribute to the lives of people in cities. Through creative projects they contribute to east London's on-going regeneration by delivering projects in and with communities. They work closely with partners and are currently delivering programmes in collaboration with the London Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Hackney, Haringey, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

**The Application**

The charity is looking for your support to develop a 2 year growing programme that intends to work with the local community in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. This application is split into two projects, the first will work with residents of the Becontree estate to develop greening initiatives in the garden of the White House, a community Art project run by CREATE London. The second project is to allow a local Community Interest Company (Company Drinks) to develop its provision at Barking Bowling Pavilion which will focus on working with the local community on growing projects and also develop its community drinks programme. Your funding is being requested to fund the Coordinator costs and associated project costs over two years, in both sites, in order to encourage local people to grow their own food, herbs and other produce and to develop skills that they can use in their own homes.

**The Recommendation**

Your funding has been sought to support two projects both taking place in Barking and Dagenham. The first project is to develop a community garden at the White House in the centre of the Becontree Estate. This programme will work with the community to develop greening initiatives and fits well under the priorities for your Improving London's Environment programme. The second part of the request is for a local CIC called Company Drinks to deliver a programme with residents at the Barking Bowling Pavilion. This however falls out of your eligibility criteria as it would involve passing your funding on to another organisation. During the assessment the organisation revised its budget which has been included as Appendix A in the application pack. A reduction in the grant size was also deemed appropriate at assessment as your officer noted the generous salary package of the senior management. Funding is proposed for the White House Garden Project as follows:

**£42,400 over two years (£25,900, £16,500) for the salary of the part-time (14hpw) White House Garden Coordinator, planting initiatives, volunteer expenses and associated project costs for work at the White House.**

## Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
25/09/2014	Application withdrawn
18/04/2013	£75,000 towards the volunteering costs of supporting CREATE's involvement in arts activities in Queen Elizabeth Park and other commissions in East London.

### Background and detail of proposal

The White House is a 16<sup>th</sup> Century farm house building that sits in the middle of the Becontree estate. CREATE London took over the building from the local authority 3 years ago and have transformed the space into a community arts space. Artists do residencies at the property and engage with the local community through a variety of projects designed to improve cultural engagement. This programme is looking to develop the garden space at the white house and engage the local community in growing and greening initiatives that reflect the history of the area.

During assessment it became clear to your officer that the second part of this project would not be delivered by CREATE London but by one of its partners in Barking and Dagenham (Company Drinks CIC). This falls outside your criteria as your funds would be passed to another organisation, which would make it ineligible.

### Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year to 31 March 2017 is £1,362,177 of which £1,290,177 (95%) is confirmed by October 2016. The organisation has seen rapid growth over the last 4 years and they expect to increase their services further over the coming years. The increase in their Cost of Generating funds for the year ended March 2017 reflects this increase in fundraising activity.

Year end at 31 March	Notes	2014/15 Audited Accounts £	2015/16 Draft Accounts £	2016/17 Next Year Forecast £
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>				
Income		844,099	1,286,062	1,362,177
Expenditure		1,024,316	1,087,632	1,331,766
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)		44,516	41,327	72,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)		(224,733)	157,103	(41,589)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)		(180,217)	198,430	30,411
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover		(21.4%)	15.4%	2.2%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)		73,030 (8.7%)	53,113 (4.1%)	130,221 (9.6%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>				
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End		79,428	98,145	170,145
How many months' worth of expenditure		0.93	1.08	1.53
Reserves Policy target		150,000	150,000	150,000
How many months' worth of <b>core operating expenditure</b>		6	6	6
Free reserves over/(under) target		(70,572)	(51,855)	20,145