

MEETING: 24/11/2016

Ref: 13229

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Living Streets (The Pedestrians Association)

Adv: Tim Wilson
Base: Tower Hamlets
Benefit: Redbridge

Amount requested: £129,072

Amount recommended: £85,900

The Charity

Established in 1929, Living Streets promotes the safety and comfort of the walking public. By championing walking, the charity aims to address social isolation, reduce pollution, and minimise the risk of preventable illness. Living Streets' early victories include campaigns that led to the first speed limits and zebra crossings, and it continues to look for and address the barriers that prevent people from walking, particularly where those issues arise from age or disability.

The Application

Living Streets seeks funding to deliver a project for older people in Redbridge which, if successful, could form a model for replication in other London Boroughs. The charity is particularly interested to see what works when public funding is under strain. Living Streets plans to convene different agencies to identify cost-effective adaptations that could bring significant improvements to the quality of life for the target local population.

Working in partnership with the London Borough of Redbridge's Public Health team, Living Streets will deliver community-based projects that identify and address the issues preventing older people and their carers from walking. The charity will also develop a 'best practice' bank of case studies and guides which it will share with public and third sector agencies from other boroughs. Redbridge has been chosen because the borough expects a faster than average growth in its older population.

The Recommendation

The initial application from Living Streets was for delivery in three boroughs. Your officer expressed concern that the role of the local authority was insufficiently strong and that too little emphasis had been placed on developing a replicable model. The revised request addresses these concerns and funding is recommended as follows:

£85,900 over two years (£43,500; £42,400) for a full-time Co-ordinator and project resources to support Living Streets' work to address barriers to walking for older people in Redbridge.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
20/01/2011	£135,860 over three years for a project to improve knowledge and action for a better walking environment in London.

Background and detail of proposal

Whilst the Trust's previous grant to Living Streets supported work at a pan-London level, and assisted the charity's engagement with Transport for London, this request is to develop new local models that work in an era of constrained public funding. Living Streets will undertake a series of Community Street Audits and one-to-one

sessions that help uncover the barriers older people face when they wish to walk. The charity will then engage local communities and public agencies to make improvements to the street space, and will capture the learning from the project before sharing with other London boroughs.

The proposed work is intended to boost the levels of physical exercise older people undertake and to address social isolation. The charity will work in partnership with the local public health team to identify what practical changes can be made to the street environment, and with AgeUK Redbridge to reach a diverse range of local older people.

Financial Information

At 2nd November the charity advised it had confirmed £4,131,000 of its 2016-17 income (89.6%). The table below shows that organisational income is expected to fall by 19.6% between 2014-15 and 2016-17. The charity advises that this is a result of the natural end of a substantial and one-off award for a Schools Outreach project.

Living Streets aims to hold reserves equivalent to six months' worth of unrestricted expenditure. The charity falls slightly short of this target in 2014-15 and 2015-16, and expects to be very slightly above by the end of 2016-17. In the view of your officer the anticipated reserve position at the end of 2016-17 is not excessive. It should be noted that the organisation also held a further £347,000 in designated reserves (a designated development fund) at the end of 2014-15 which is described in the accounts as being for "future charitable projects". The trustees do not currently have a plan for the use of these funds and your officer has encouraged the charity to address this. The combination of free reserves and designated reserves at the end of 2014-15 is £697,000 and equivalent to 1.6 months' worth of total organisational expenditure or 9 months' worth of unrestricted expenditure which is not excessive.

Year end at 30 September	2014-15 Audited	2015-16 Draft	2016-17 Forecast
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	5,738,196	4,727,000	4,611,000
Expenditure	5,204,134	4,727,000	4,586,000
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	36,626	0	25,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	497,436	0	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	534,062	0	25,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	9.3%	0.0%	0.5%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	564,342 (9.8%)	619,000 (13.1%)	510,000 (11.1%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	350,000	350,000	375,000
How many months' worth of <i>unrestricted</i> expenditure	4.6	5.6	6.7
Reserves Policy target	461,219	399,500	337,500
How many months' worth of <i>unrestricted</i> expenditure	6	6	6
Free reserves over/(under) target	(111,219)	(49,500)	37,500