

<b>Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee</b>			
Title	Lewisham Future Programme 2015/16 Revenue Savings Update – Savings proposal L1, Main Grants Programme update,		
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services	Item	5
Class	Part 1 (open)	03 February 2015	

## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 This report provides an update to Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee regarding savings proposal L1 – Main Grants Programme a proposed reduction of £1.5m to the main grants programme.
- 1.1 The Mayor & Cabinet meeting of 12 November 2014 asked that savings proposal L1 be resubmitted in May 2015 for final decision, following further consultation with the sector and once the new application process had been completed. In the interim an update is to be considered by the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee and then taken to Mayor & Cabinet in February 2015.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are asked to note and comment on the update for savings proposal L1 – Main Grants Programme prior to its presentation to the Mayor on 11 February 2015.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Following the 2015/16 savings proposals being considered by Select Committees and the Mayor during October and November 2014, updates on a number of proposals are now returning to Select Committees prior to their consideration by the Mayor on 11 February 2015.

## **4. Update**

- 4.1 This report briefly provides an update on the Cultural and Community Development budget proposal L1 – Main Grants Programme. Specifically detailing the extra consultation process, how the application process is working and future programming.
- 4.2 Additional Consultation – A detailed and extensive 3 month consultation on the proposed reduction and new criteria was undertaken prior to the November Mayor and Cabinet meeting. The outcome of this consultation was brought to Safer Stronger Select Committee for scrutiny in November prior to Mayor and Cabinet. Proposals for the new criteria were agreed at the November Mayor and Cabinet meeting but some additional consultation on the level of the proposed reduction was recommended. An additional consultation period (deadline 30 January 2015) around the level of proposed savings (currently 25%) is being conducted. The response to this additional consultation at the time of writing has been minimal with no responses suggesting any other level of savings.

- 4.3 Application Process – the application process for 2015-18 grant period opened in early December with a deadline for applications of 4 February 2014. To assist organisations to submit quality applications there have been 4 networking events and officers have been providing one to one Application Surgeries (either via phone or face to face) throughout December and January. Both the Networking events and the Application Surgeries have proved extremely popular, with both current and new organisations booking slots.
- 4.4 Theme 1: Strong and Cohesive Communities, Neighbourhood Strand – to assist the assessment process for this new strand, an exercise is currently being conducted via the Local Assemblies team in conjunction with Local Assembly Coordinating Groups to better understand the community development needs of each ward. This information will be used to help inform which potential applicants might 'best fit' within each ward area, as they will be expected to work very closely with the Local Assemblies.
- 4.5 The application deadline for the programme is 4 February 2015. Applications will then be assessed through a three stage assessment process and draft recommendations provided to organisations by 30th March 2015. Organisations will then be able to prepare an appeal that will be presented alongside the officer recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet contracts meeting on 13th May 2015 for a final decision. The new grants will commence on 1st July 2015. The officer's draft recommendations will be available for scrutiny by Safer Stronger Select Committee at their meeting on 15th April 2015.

## **5 Conclusion**

Savings proposal L1 – Main Grants Programme, proposed reduction of £1.5m is on track to provide draft grant recommendations for scrutiny in April 2015 and final decision in May 2015 with implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

For Further information please contact Liz Dart, Head of Culture and Community Development at [liz.dart@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:liz.dart@lewisham.gov.uk)