



## Mayor and Cabinet

### Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)

#### Boroughwide recommendations for funding

**Date:** 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

**Key decision:** Yes

**Class:**

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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#### Outline and recommendations

At its meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Mayor and Cabinet agreed the spending priorities for the borough wide allocation of the NCIL fund. On the 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Mayor and Cabinet agreed a top up of £396,161 to the borough wide fund bringing the total available for Community Projects to £877,094 and an additional borough wide priority aiming to assist in Lewisham's Covid-19 recovery.

This report sets out a summary of the NCIL Borough Wide Fund programme and the projects that have been assessed and recommended for funding by officers

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet:

- Approve the allocation of NCIL Borough Wide funding to the list of recommended projects found in section 8 of this report

## Timeline of engagement and decision-making

The current NCIL strategy was agreed through Mayor and Cabinet on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and Council on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

The priorities for the Borough Wide pot were agreed through Mayor and Cabinet on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

Additional top up of the NCIL Borough Wide Fund pot to include the CIL receipts received between 2018-2020 and additional Borough Wide priority aiming to support Lewisham's Covid -19 recovery agreed through Mayor and Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

## 1. Summary

- 1.1. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a levy that local authorities can choose to charge on “chargeable” new developments in their area.
- 1.2. The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 requires that a charging authority must apply CIL to fund the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure to support the development of its area. Neighbourhood CIL is defined through R59F of the CIL Regulations (2010) and enables the council to allocate a portion of CIL receipts to be spent on wider matters namely , *to support the development of the relevant area by funding –*
  - (a) *the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or*
  - (b) *anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.”*
- 1.3. At its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 Council agreed to allocate 25% of CIL receipts as Neighbourhood CIL and use the ward structure as the basis for distribution. It was also agreed that the 25% would be distributed with a portion of receipts retained in each ward they were generated, a portion redistributed across the wards based on the index of multiple deprivation (IMD), and a portion set aside for projects that will propose a borough wide benefit (borough wide pot).
- 1.4. Figures included in the report presented to Council were based on CIL receipts from 2015 to 2018 and allocated £580,933 to the borough wide pot.
- 1.5. At its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020 Mayor and Cabinet agreed the priorities on which projects would have to address to qualify for the borough wide pot.
- 1.6. At its meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Mayor and Cabinet agreed to top up the borough wide pot with an additional £396,161 of CIL receipts collected during 2018 – 2020 bring to total allocation of borough wide NCIL to £977,094 with £100,000 allocated to projects to involve the community in projects to improve Air Quality.
- 1.7. At the same meeting an additional borough wide priority was agreed aiming to support Lewisham's Covid-19 recovery by promoting community cohesion within the borough.

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- 1.8. This report provides an update on the progression of the borough wide pot and seeks agreement from Mayor and Cabinet to approve the list of projects that have been assessed and recommended by officers for funding through the NCIL Borough Wide.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1. It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet:
- Approve the allocation of NCIL Borough Wide funding to the list of recommended projects found in section 8 of this report.

## 3. Policy Context

- 3.1. The contents of this report are consistent with the Council's policy framework.
- 3.2. The NCIL strategy will contribute to the implementation of the Council's seven corporate priorities from the Corporate Strategy 2018-2022 through supporting local projects that are aligned with those objectives.
- 3.3. The overall NCIL strategy will provide funding and a system to help support the implementation of the Corporate Strategy, and this report is consistent with the seven priorities identified:
- Open Lewisham – Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us
  - Tackling the housing crisis – everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable
  - Giving children and young people the best start in life – every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential
  - Building and inclusive local economy - everyone can access high quality job opportunities, with decent pay security in our thriving and inclusive local economy
  - Delivering & defending: Health, Social Care and Support – ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need
  - Making Lewisham greener – everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
  - Building safer communities – every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

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## 4. Background

- 4.1. CIL is a levy that local authorities can choose to charge on new development in their area. Local authorities must spend the levy on infrastructure needed to support the development of their area, which can include a wide range of infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, roads, open space and leisure facilities.
- 4.2. Neighbourhood CIL is defined through R59F of the CIL Regulations (2010) which enables the Council to allocate a portion of CIL receipts to be spent on local priorities, with spending of this portion subject to a wider definition of *“The charging authority may use the CIL to which this regulation applies, or cause it to be used, to support the development of the relevant area by funding –*
- (a) the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or*
- (b) anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.”*
- 4.3. The full background to Lewisham’s agreed NCIL approach is set out the report presented to M&C on 5 June 2019 and Full Council 24 July 2019.
- 4.4. Further to the approach agreed to NCIL set out through Mayor and Cabinet and Council, a set of spending priorities for the Borough Wide NCIL fund was agreed through Mayor and Cabinet on 11 March 2020. The following allocations agreed were:
- £100,000 to be allocated to the development of Council borough wide Air Quality initiatives that promote community involvement
  - An open call for projects that should meet the following priorities:
    - Initiatives that seek to support local community groups to contributing to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
    - Provision of high quality mentoring services and those designed to keep Lewisham’s children and young people safe from exploitation, violence and serious youth crime
    - Support for people with learning disabilities and/or issues with mental health to find employment opportunitiesIn order to identify projects for which the remainder of the fund may be allocated
  - Resolve that such funding should support services that are borough – wide, as far as possible, but provide extra focus on the most deprived wards in the borough as defined by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation
- 4.5. On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Mayor and Cabinet approved an additional top up of £396,161 to the Borough Wide NCIL pot bringing the total amount to £977,094 meaning £877,094 be available for allocation. At the same meeting an additional priority was agreed:
- Projects that will assist in Lewisham’s Covid-19 recovery by demonstrating a benefit to Lewisham’s communities at a borough wide level
- 4.8. The Borough Wide NCIL open call for projects was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with the application process open until 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021. During this period an application support programme was implemented to provide guidance and offer support to applicants.

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## 5. Borough Wide NCIL and other Council Funding

- 5.1. NCIL as a fund supports development by funding infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area. The Borough wide fund is focussed towards specific priorities to address development demands that are not addressed within the Council's other funding programmes, namely prevention of crime and anti-social behaviour, mentoring services for young people and employment support for people with learning difficulties and mental health issues.
- 5.2. The Borough Wide fund also allows projects to address need on a borough wide basis or across two or more wards. This differs from projects expected through the NCIL ward pot where more local projects will be delivered that are more likely to benefit the residents of the ward where the project proposal is based.
- 5.3. In addition to NCIL, the Council operates the Main Grants and Greening Fund programmes. They have the ability to deliver projects on a borough wide scale, but address different priorities to Borough Wide NCIL fund with Main Grants focusing the vast majority of funding towards services for adults and the Greening Fund focusing funding mainly on capital projects that aim to make the borough greener.
- 5.4. The priorities for the Council's other funding programmes that Borough Wide NCIL support are:

### **Main Grants**

The Main Grants programme provides funding to a range of local organisations from the voluntary and community sector. Over the next 3 years the Main Grants programme will invest over £7 million of grant funding to local groups to support their work in the community. The Main Grants programme's priorities are:

- An economically sound future, specifically
  - Advice Services and
  - Enabling Digital Access for All
- A healthy and well future
- A future we all have a part in

### **Greening Fund**

The Greening Fund provides grants of up to £40,000 to support volunteers and community groups working to make the borough greener. The funding was secured from s106 money. The Greening Funds priorities are:

- Access to open spaces
- Young People and Play
- Biodiversity and Sustainability

### **NCIL Ward Fund**

The NCIL ward pot will address infrastructure priorities that have been submitted and ratified by local residents through an extensive public consultation and the Local Assembly network. The Ward NCIL pot will make available £2,931,270 to fund projects that address a chosen priority from within the applicants ward. Each of the 18 wards within Lewisham have ratified 5 or 6 local priorities with an additional priority focusing on Covid-19 recovery added to each ward. Additional information on the priorities can

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be found on the Council's community funding website :  
<https://communityfunding.lewisham.gov.uk/neighbourhood-community-infrastructure-levy-ncil-funding/ncil-ward-funding>

- 5.5. Relevant project proposals that were not recommended for Borough Wide NCIL but were considered of a sufficient standard by officers have the opportunity to apply to the Council's other funding programmes and will be invited to submit applications to the relevant programme.

## 6. Borough Wide NCIL pot funding structure

- 6.1. The table below shows how the Council structured the borough wide fund, inviting organisations to submit project proposals that can be delivered within the funding limits outlined through the different categories.

Project Category	Allocation of borough wide pot	Project Value
Category A	£77,094	Grants up to £10,000
Category B	£100,000	Grants from £10,000 - £35,000
Category C	£400,000	Grants from £35,000 - £50,000
Category D	£300,000	Grants up to £100,000

- 6.2. Any funding not allocated during this round of borough wide NCIL would be carried over into the next funding cycle of the borough wide pot.
- 6.3. Successful projects will be subject of a timeframe of 2 years to spend their allocation, beginning on the date of the signing of the grant agreement.
- 6.4. NCIL borough-wide funds awarded under £35,000 will receive light touch monitoring in partnership with other relevant Council departments. Specific monitoring arrangements will be agreed with the individual organisation and detailed in the grant agreement.

## 7. NCIL borough wide programme/assessment of applications

- 7.1. The Borough Wide NCIL programme was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and ran until 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021. During this period a programme of support was implemented by officers to assist residents and organisations with the application process. The programme included:
- A dedicated telephone line for NCIL enquiries
  - A dedicated e-mail inbox for NCIL enquiries
  - Application workshops for organisations and residents
  - One to one meetings with applicants
- 7.2. A new funding portal was created by officers providing all of the necessary application

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information regarding the Borough Wide NCIL Fund. On this portal, applicants could access the application forms, guidance notes and information on how to attend workshops and how to contact the support programme designed to assist applicants.

- 7.3. The open call for projects closed on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2021 after which officers began the assessment of the project applications.
- 7.4. During the assessment process officers first undertook due diligence checks on the applications to confirm if the applicant met the agreed criteria regarding whether or not the applicant was a resident of the borough and/or if an organisation applying for over £10,000 had at least three years of financial records.
- 7.5. Below is a table that provides an overview of number projects received during the open call for projects before and after the due diligence check:

<b>Borough Wide NCIL fund round 1 application breakdown</b>	
<b>No. of applications received</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>No. of applications not meeting due diligence</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>No. of applications meeting due diligence</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>NCIL funding requested before due diligence</b>	<b>£4.7 million</b>
<b>NCIL funding requested post due diligence</b>	<b>£4,298,121.07</b>

- 7.6. The table below provides an overview of the number of applications submitted within each funding category and the delivery area of the project proposal that passed the due diligence checks.

<b>Delivery Area</b>	<b>No. of Applications</b>	<b>£10k Funds requested</b>	<b>£10-£35k Funds requested</b>	<b>£35-£50k Funds requested</b>	<b>£50-£100k Funds requested</b>
2 or more	31	£57,511	£200,894	£199,170	£772,035
Borough-wide	74	£168,961.20	£486,116.72	£741,260	£1,549,011.32
<b>Funding Band</b>			<b>No. of applications</b>	<b>Funding requested</b>	
<b>Up to 10k</b>	<b>£77,094</b>	<b>Max 10</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>£215,492.20</b>	
<b>10k -35k</b>	<b>£100,000</b>	<b>Max 10</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>£821,151.08</b>	

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<b>35k – 50k</b>	£400,000	<b>Max 11</b>	<b>20</b>	£940,430.67
<b>50k – 100k</b>	£300,000	<b>Max 3</b>	<b>27</b>	£2,197,906.92

- 7.7. Each application was assessed and scored by two officers during the assessment stage. The applications were scored in line with the agreed scoring criteria and the scores were reviewed with both officers agreeing a moderated score for the application.
- 7.8. The small grants (up to £35,000) were scored out of 29, having to meet a minimum score of 17 for further consideration and the large grants (£35,000 - £100,000) were scored out of 33 having to meet a minimum of 19 for further consideration.
- 7.9. Applications that met the minimum score in both the small and large grant categories were then sent to the service heads of the relevant Council departments that the application related to for expert comments.
- 7.10. Project applications were then identified by officers as either recommended for funding or not recommended for funding. An assessment meeting was then held with the Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure and the Director of Planning along with other senior officers to consider the overall spread of the recommended projects across the criteria and geographically. Agreement was then made that the recommended projects could proceed to Mayor and Cabinet for formal decision.

## 8. Summary of projects recommended for NCIL Borough Wide pot

- 8.1. Officers are recommending 25 projects for funding for the Borough Wide NCIL Fund. The table below shows the different funding categories each project is in. A full summary of all recommended projects can be found in appendix 1.

Funding category	Project Name
Up to 10k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee Café</li> <li>• Oaks and Acorns in Harmony C.I.C</li> <li>• Catbytes C.I.C</li> <li>• One in Four (London)</li> <li>• Give a Song</li> <li>• Inspiring Your Imagination Ltd</li> <li>• Facework C.I.C</li> <li>• Lewisham Cyclists, London Cycling Campaign</li> <li>• Buddies for All</li> </ul>
<b>Total funding amount</b>	<b>£75,152.20</b>

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10k – 35k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afghanistan and Central Asian Association</li> <li>• Lewisham Youth Theatre</li> <li>• Lewisham Pensioner Forum</li> </ul>
<b>Total Funding amount</b>	<b>£60,220.64</b>
35k – 50k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metro Centre Ltd</li> <li>• Contact</li> <li>• Lewisham Local (Rushey Green Time Bank)</li> <li>• Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network</li> <li>• Rio Ferdinand Foundation</li> <li>• Entelechy Arts</li> <li>• Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts</li> <li>• Watergate Sensory Garden</li> <li>• Ignition Brewery Ltd</li> </ul>
<b>Total Funding amount</b>	<b>£431,251.88</b>
50k – 100k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Voluntary Services Lewisham</li> <li>• Sydenham Garden</li> <li>• Spark2life – Greenleaf trust</li> <li>• TLG Lewisham Education Centre – Power the Fight</li> </ul>
<b>Total Funding amount</b>	<b>£310,469.28</b>

8.2. The table below sorts the recommended projects by the Borough Wide NCIL priority

Borough Wide NCIL priority	Project name
Initiatives that seek to support local community groups to contribute to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One in Four (London)</li> <li>• Inspiring Your Imagination Ltd</li> <li>• Rio Ferdinand Foundation</li> <li>• Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts</li> <li>• TLG Lewisham Education Centre – Power the Fight</li> </ul>
<b>Total Funding Value - £210,216.80</b>	

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<p>Provision of high quality mentoring services and those designed to keep Lewisham's children and young people safe from exploitation, violence and serious youth crime</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oaks and Acorns in Harmony CIC</li> <li>• Metro Centre Ltd</li> <li>• Spark2Life – Greenleaf Trust</li> </ul>
<p><b>Total Funding Value - £152,585.88</b></p>	
<p>Support for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health problem to find employment opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refugee Café</li> <li>• Catbytes CIC</li> <li>• Facework Group CIC</li> <li>• Ignition Brewery Ltd</li> <li>• Lewisham Local</li> <li>• Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network</li> <li>• Sydenham Garden</li> <li>• Lewisham Youth Theatre</li> <li>• Afghanistan and Central Asian Association</li> </ul>
<p><b>Total Funding Value - £278,359.51</b></p>	
<p>Projects that will assist in Lewisham's Covid-19 recovery by demonstrating a benefit to Lewisham's communities at a borough wide level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give a Song</li> <li>• Lewisham Cyclists, London Cycling Campaign</li> <li>• Buddies for All</li> <li>• Lewisham Pensioner Forum</li> <li>• Contact</li> <li>• Entelechy Arts</li> <li>• Watergate sensory garden</li> <li>• Voluntary Services Lewisham</li> </ul>
<p><b>Total Funding Value - £235,931.81</b></p>	

8.3. The recommended Borough Wide NCIL projects are listed below. The projects are sorted by NCIL priority and include amount of money requested with a short project

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summary:

**Initiatives that seek to support local community groups to contribute to tackling crime and anti-social behaviour.**

**TLG Lewisham Education Centre 'Power the Fight' - £100,000**

Collaboration between four Lewisham providers working together to address serious youth violence (SYV) in the borough, through therapeutic support.

**Rio Ferdinand Foundation Grove Park Youth Club Building Preservation Trust (GPYC BPT) - £49,920**

Youth and community development programme from the recently reopened Grove Park Youth Club. Regular youth club activities to 350 young people (aged 11 – 18) from Grove Park, Whitefoot, Downham and Lee.

The programme will be open to all young people from the borough, however the project will target those who are:

- Experiencing racial and economic disadvantage;
- Experiencing poor mental health;
- Socially isolated as a result of the pandemic;
- Struggling with or disengaged from their education;
- Not in formal education or employment;
- Known to be or deemed at risk of becoming involved with the youth justice system.

**Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts - £46,077**

The programme will provide free workshops, training and events to young people in Lewisham, delivered outside school/college hours at weekends, and during holiday periods. Second Wave is a BAME-led organisation. 100% of their Trustees and 88% of their beneficiaries are from BAME communities.

**Inspiring Your Imagination Ltd - £8,163.80**

The project will run for 12 weeks' taking place in youth centres across the borough and also online via Zoom, allowing a wider reach for young people in the borough to get involved. Young Lewisham residents will be taught transferable skills in Digital Marketing, Film Production, Music Production & DJing, while also learning vital life-long skills such as teamwork, time management, planning, decision-making and communication. All participants will also be offered one-to-one sessions to assist with their CV alongside the offer of general wellbeing support.

**One In Four (London) - £6,056**

The project will provide specialist support for Lewisham residents who have survived domestic and/or, sexual violence or childhood sexual abuse through counselling (in-person from September and online), group therapy workshops, resources, signposting, advice and advocacy support.

Project objectives include helping survivors achieve post-traumatic growth, to live their lives, build successful meaningful relationships with partners, and reengage with the local community.

**Provision of high quality mentoring services and those designed to keep Lewisham's**

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**children and young people safe from exploitation, violence and serious youth crime.**

**Spark2Life-GreenLeaf Trust - £92,592**

The Lewisham Mentoring Service is driven by statutory referral, via YOS and the Multi-Agency Concern Hub.

The project aims to:

- Provide high-quality and trauma-informed mentoring services within a range of wards within Lewisham.
- Provide community outreach and detached work in wards most in need
- Provide case work mentoring, which is trauma-informed, holistic and evidence-base
- Provide support to parents and family members in needs, via online group sessions
- Provide AQA-accredited Holistic Mentoring Training for community members and volunteers from local organisations

**Metro Centre Ltd (trading as Metro Charity - £49,993.88**

METRO's Risk and Resilience programme (RRP) is an early intervention programme that provides sex, identity and relationship mentoring to young people. The service takes a holistic view of sex and relationship education and goes beyond delivering practical health information, recognising that sex and relationship behaviours are linked to much broader identity and attitude issues. The RRP will impact communities across the borough by working at the earliest opportunity with young people displaying harmful behaviours, including harmful sexual behaviours. The programme supports young people to become critical thinkers, build their emotional literacy, and provide practical knowledge and skills around healthier sex, relationships, and communication with their peers.

**Oaks and Acorns In Harmony C.I.C - £10,000**

Project-based Family Learning Sessions will provide learning and social opportunities that actively explore solutions to real-world challenges and build resilience in dealing with the impact of Covid-19 for parents, children and young people. The main objectives are to introduce new skills, develop confidence and raise attainment by offering high quality mentoring services and provide a parent volunteer scheme.

**Support for people with learning disabilities and/or mental health problems to find employment opportunities.**

**Sydenham Garden - £53,999.28**

Sydenham Garden enables people to improve their quality of life, social interaction and physical and mental health in a supportive community environment. The project aims to promote inclusion and reduce prejudice by bringing together co-workers with different degrees of mental and physical ill health, volunteers and members of the local community to work together. The aim is to also provide non-medical services in the hope of improving their physical and mental health.

**Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network - £49,989**

The project will build employability skills and provide experience to refugees, migrants, people with learning disabilities and mental health issues that will help them gain employment. Volunteers will be trained to become advocates to support organisations in becoming more inclusive employers. The project will provide new opportunities to those excluded from volunteering and employment. Bringing in people from diverse backgrounds.

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### **Lewisham Local (Working Name for Rushey Green Time Bank) - £49,999**

Changing Minds is an 18-month programme supporting people with ill mental health and/or learning disabilities to increase their employment opportunities. The project is a partnership between Lewisham Local (LL) and Lewisham Speaking Up (LSUP) with the programme. A steering group will oversee the co-design and delivery of the programme involving the three organisation partners and self-advocates with lived experience from LRMN and LSUP's People's Parliament.

### **Ignition Brewery Ltd - £49,800**

The project is an inclusive community enterprise generator for people with learning disabilities. The project will create training opportunities, secure qualifications required for employment and, of most value, create jobs. Through a three-stage process, the aim is to identify jobs and business opportunities for people with learning disabilities and identify people with the aptitude and talents to do those jobs or start those enterprises and provide mentoring and support.

### **Lewisham Youth Theatre - £30,000**

Two year project focused on improving mental health and wellbeing of young residents, with workshops, training and employment support, including:

- A two year Youth Facilitator Training for residents aged 18-25, with paid work experience
- Wellbeing & Good Mental Health workshops for secondary pupils

### **Afghanistan and Central Asian Association - £18,617.23**

Employability project for refugees and other marginalised BAME groups, offering:

- ESOL for Work classes, CV and Cover Letter writing workshops
- Support with digital skills, with guidance on searching for job opportunities /online application forms
- Soft skills development (confidence, teamwork, timekeeping, etc) through group activities and job interviews practice
- 1:1 support sessions, in response to any additional needs identified
- Volunteering and Work Placements

### **Facework Group CIC - £10,000**

Programme of live and virtual events, training and coaching aimed specifically at those whose career, work-life patterns and employability have been impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Based at Hatcham house and streamed online, involving young people to share their experience with peers.

### **Refugee Café - £10,000**

Funding the post of Volunteer Manager for one year to coordinate volunteers in order to provide training and work experience to refugees at the Refuge Café.

### **Catbytes CIC - £5,955**

Catbytes is a social enterprise which promotes digital inclusion through distributing donated laptops and teaching clients in their use. "Buddies" volunteers provide training in drop-in clubs and booked sessions with clients referred mainly with mental health difficulties. The project aims to set up more clubs across the borough.

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**Projects that will assist in Lewisham's Covid-19 recovery by demonstrating a benefit to Lewisham's communities at a borough wide level.**

**Voluntary Services Lewisham - £63,878**

Befriending phone line in partnership with JUT recruiting 300 volunteers and matching same language befriender for the most isolated residents. The project will provide free DBS checks for volunteers and will run for one year.

**Contact - £49,873**

The project provides parents in Lewisham with a disabled child support for their mental health through 1:1 advice, assistance to complete benefit and grant forms. It will run social activities such as coffee mornings, walk and talks in the park and one large family event for parents to foster peer to peer support. The project will involve around 200 parents.

**Entelechy Arts - £45,300**

The project supports older people at risk of experiencing isolation to return to community life, engaging them in cultural and community activities through attendance at Meet Me at the Albany (MMA) once a week, 50 weeks of the year and Meet Me on the Move (MMM), once per month for 18 months.

**Watergate sensory garden (delivered by Lewisham Council) - £40,300**

Refurbishment, replanting and redesign of Watergate School's sensory garden. Outdoor space which stimulates outdoor learning and the senses; pupils who suffer from anxiety will have a calm and quiet place to recuperate.

**Lewisham Pensioner Forum (LPF) - £11,603.41**

"Monday Project" to re-engage residents aged 65 plus in social activities such as walks, tea and chat, healthy eating workshop, board games, knitting, ukulele, body recondition sessions, including talks/focus groups that will be live-streamed, giving pensioners access to hear from support services and organisations such as Age UK, Falls Association and Public Health.

**Lewisham Cyclists, London Cycling Campaign - £9,688**

Community bike workshop delivering bike maintenance courses for women, in youth clubs, offering mechanic training, Build a Bike sessions where individuals learn how to repair second-hand donated cycles, bike skills sessions and local rides. They apply a "what you can afford" policy for repairs.

**Buddies for All CIC - £8,524.40**

A new social enterprise and buddying service for disabled adults and those with mental health conditions. Its aim is to provide online, telephone and face-to-face support to alleviating the stress and anxiety they may face in their daily lives and support users to access their community such as trips to the park, cinema, social events or undertaking the weekly shop. Two schemes over a 24 week period, aiming to recruit 60 volunteers and 60 buddies

**Give a Song - £6,765**

Community cohesion project delivering 54 interactive street music workshops over four months. It will deliver workshops for older residents in making instruments from recycled materials, hire professional musician and involve local residents. Estimates 40/60 people from forecourts, gardens and windows will participate in each session.

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## 9. Overall Conclusion/recommendations

- 9.1. The Borough Wide NCIL fund received a total of 122 project applications amounting to a total value of £4.7 million pounds. Through the due diligence checks this total was reduced to 105 projects amounting to a total value of £4,298,121.07.
- 9.2. A successful application support programme provided essential guidance for both experienced and inexperienced applicants. As this was the first time NCIL had been implemented within the Council, the support programme provided an important resource for applicants in helping them understand how the NCIL criteria could be met and whether or not their project was suitable for Borough Wide NCIL funding.
- 9.3. Officers assessed the projects internally producing a list of projects that were either recommended or not recommended for Borough Wide NCIL funding.
- 9.4. Of the 105 projects that successfully passed the due diligence requirements, officers agreed a final list of 25 recommended projects with a total value of £877,094. It was then agreed by the Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure and Director of Planning for recommendation to Mayor and Cabinet for funding. This stage was supported by comments from Service Area Managers who provided expert feedback on the applications.
- 9.5. The projects recommended for Mayor and Cabinet approval evenly address all of the Borough Wide NCIL priorities with funding allocations ranging from under £10k up to £100,000. The priorities and funding categories provided an opportunity for local residents and organisations to deliver a wide range of projects that will positively impact the wider borough.
- 9.6. Officers will produce a “lessons learnt” document noting the experiences of implementing the Borough Wide NCIL programme and feedback received from residents and organisations. This document will be used to improve and strengthen the future implementation of any further Borough Wide NCIL processes.
- 9.7. It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet approve the projects listed in section 8 of this report. Further information on each recommended project can be found in appendix 1

## 10. Financial implications

- 10.1. The Council commenced receipts of Community Infrastructure Levies in 2015 and received a total of £9.287m between 2015 and 2018. A total of £580,933 was allocated to the NCIL borough wide pot as agreed by Mayor and Cabinet in June 2019. During the period covering 2018 to 2020, the council collected a further £6,602,686 in CIL receipts, resulting in a further top up of £396,161 to the NCIL borough wide pot. The top up has been calculated based on the previously agreed methodology.
- 10.2. This report is seeking approval from Mayor and Cabinet to approve the allocation of NCIL Borough wide funding to the list of recommended projects found in section 8 of this report costing £877k.
- 10.3. Any spend on these priorities will be contained within the fund and will add no further pressure to the Council's finances

## 11. Legal implications

- 11.1. Under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do unless it is expressly prohibited.
- 11.2. The giving of grants to voluntary organisations is a discretionary power which must be exercised reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and ignoring

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irrelevant considerations.

- 11.3. In accordance with the Council's Constitution the decisions required in this report are reserved to Members. The decision will be a key decision under Article 16.2(c)(xiii) of the Constitution
- 11.4. The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 11.5. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its function, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
  - (c) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 11.6. The duty continues to be a "have regard duty", and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the decision maker, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 11.7. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled "Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice". The council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:  
<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/technicalguidance-public-sector-equality-duty-england>
- 11.8. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
  2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
  3. Engagement and the equality duty
  4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
  5. Equality information and the equality duty
- 11.9. The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/advice-and-guidance/publicsector-equality-duty-guidance>

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## **12. Equalities implications**

- 12.1. In addition to the Public Sector Duty under the Equality Act 2010, the NCIL borough-wide fund seeks to further positively address the disproportionate impact COVID 19 has had across many of our communities including; BAME communities, people with disabilities, individuals with no recourse to public funds and those living in more deprived areas of the borough. To meet the needs of those whose needs are currently not being met through the provision of services, activities and projects that will have a positive and lasting benefit.
- 12.2. A full Equalities Analysis Assessment has been undertaken regarding the impact of the NCIL borough wide fund. This can read in full as appendix 4.

## **13. Climate change and environmental implications**

- 13.1. Air Quality was agreed through Mayor and Cabinet as a priority for the borough-wide NCIL pot. £100,000 has been allocated specifically to air quality projects, however currently the Council have not invited project applications relating to this priority. It is expected that any infrastructure funded within this area will have a positive impact in reducing air quality and improving the environment although the nature of this can not be determined ahead of the application and assessment process

## **14. Crime and disorder implications**

- 14.1. Five projects recommended for Borough Wide NCIL funding that will have a positive impact in reducing crime and disorder within the borough. The projects are focused towards the prevention of serious youth violence and providing specialist support for survivors of domestic, sexual and childhood sexual abuse.

## **15. Health and wellbeing implications**

- 15.1. The purpose of all NCIL funding is to offset any impacts of development and population growth so the expectation is that any and all projects that receive funding will improve the wellbeing of the local community.

## **16. Report author and contact**

- 16.1. James Lee – Director of Communities, Partnerships and Leisure
- 16.2. Mia Agnew - Senior Lawyer, Contracts, Education and Employment
- 16.3. Abdul Kayoum - Strategic Business Partner - Communities, Group Finance

## **17. Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources**

- 17.1. Abdul Kayoum - Strategic Business Partner - Communities, Group Finance

## **18. Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Law, Governance and HR**

- 18.1. Mia Agnew - Senior Lawyer, Contracts, Education and Employment

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Borough Wide NCIL Recommended Application summaries

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Appendix 2 – Borough Wide NCIL application assessment summary

Appendix 3 – Borough Wide NCIL list of Non – Recommended projects

Appendix 4 – Borough Wide NCIL Equalities Analysis Assessment

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