

Report for: Liz Skelland, Head of Programme Management, Regeneration and Economic Development

Title: Purchase of a shipping container on behalf of Noel Park Big Local Community Organisation.

Report authorised by: Pawel Pietraszek – Regeneration Manager, Wood Green

Lead Officer: Anna Burton - Regeneration Officer, Wood Green

Ward(s) affected: Noel Park Ward, Wood Green

**Report for Key/
Non-Key Decision:** Non Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 As part of GGF3, the Wood Green Regeneration team are supporting community organisation Noel Park Big Local (NPBL) with the delivery of the 'Changing Gears' project, which seeks to deliver horticulture and bike maintenance training to young people in the Noel Park ward. A key requirement is a space from which NPBL can deliver the training. Following an investigation into property options it was decided that the most suitable option would be a refurbished 20ft shipping container placed in Russell Park. A certificate of lawfulness to place the container in Russel Park was granted in Jan 2021, and it will remain on site for 7 years. The Council need to purchase the container on behalf of NPBL to allow them to deliver the Changing Gears project.

1.2 The shipping container purchase will be funded by GLA Good Growth 3 Funding (GGF).

2. Recommendations

2.1. As allowed under CSO 10.01.2 D, to approve a waiver for the purchase of 1x converted 20ft shipping container on behalf of Wood Green based community organisation Noel Park Big Local (NPBL), to enable them to deliver training courses, valued at £20,550.

3. Reasons for decision

3.1. The preferred approach is for the Council to purchase the shipping container on behalf of NPBL.

3.2. NPBL requested quotes from approx. 5 companies in late 2020. Based on the price / quality the company 'Inbox Projects' were selected. 4 quotes were received in total.

3.3. The containers are to be paid for by a £22,500 grant from the third round of the GLA Good Growth fund.

3.4. It was decided the Council should purchase the containers directly to avoid payment of VAT which would take the container cost above the grant allocation. This approach would also mean that a back-to-back grant agreement with NPBL to transfer them the

grant monies was not necessary, thus cutting out a potentially lengthy step which could cause delays to the programme.

3.5. NPBL will use the shipping container as a central hub / office, a space from which to deliver the Changing Gears project. This project aims to train young people from the Noel Park ward in horticulture and bike maintenance. NPBL need to deliver this training in spring / summer 2021 so the decision is time-sensitive.

4. Alternative options considered

4.1. NPBL purchase container themselves:

4.1.1. This would delay commencement of the project. The Regeneration team would have to undertake the process to create a back-to-back grant agreement with NPBL in order to grant them the funding, thus causing delays to the delivery of the container, and delays to the delivery of training. It is vital that this is delivered in spring / summer due to the need for good weather.

4.1.2. If NPBL purchased the containers directly, the purchase would be subject to VAT which would increase the price of the shipping containers from £20,550 to £24,660, which is above the GGF3 grant allocation.

5. Background information

5.1. The Noel Park ward suffers from high levels of deprivation and unemployment, particularly amongst young people. The Changing Gears projects seeks to tackle this by upskilling young people to build confidence and create community cohesion locally. The shipping container will enable NPBL to deliver this training and have an 'on site' presence which will benefit the local community generally.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1. The project contributes directly to the following corporate priorities in the borough plan: Economy – “all residents have access to training and skills development opportunities and more people are supported into work”; People – “nurture all residents to... achieve their potential.”

7. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

7.1. Finance

No comment needed below £50,000

7.2. Procurement

No comment needed below £50,000

7.3. Legal

No comment needed below £160,000

7.4. Equality

N/A

8. Use of Appendices

Quote from container supplier

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None