

Regeneration Team - Briefing Note

January 2023

Community Gardens - Phase 2 Update/ Termination of Grant Delivery Contract

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1. Purpose of Note

This briefing note provides a summary of the background, and work undertaken to date on the Community Gardens project.

This briefing paper is to notify the Grants Committee of the termination of the Phase 2 Grant Delivery Contract following LIF review recommendation from the Mayor, and to formally close this grant.

2. Background

The Community Gardens Programme was adopted as one of the projects approved from the 2019 LIF consultation, with a budget of £437,500 capital funding to include food growing, allotments and other forms of green community infrastructure at locations across LIF Areas 1,2, 3 and 4.

The project aimed to deliver a number of community gardens which people value, enjoy and feel safe and comfortable in and which promote social interaction and inclusion.

The Community Gardens Programme PID was approved by the LIF Working Group at the July 2021 meeting, and sets out a phased delivery plan summarised in the table below.

Phase	1	2
Delivery Method	Direct delivery/direct award of funding	Grant funding (working with a third-party grant giving organisation,)
Indicative Timing	August 2021 - December 2022	July 2022 - July 2023
Beneficiaries	LIF Responders only	LIF Responders + Open Application
Number of Sites	9 sites	Between 10 - 12
Typical Site Cost	Between £10k - £25k	Between £10k - £25k

Phase 1 delivery comprises of Direct delivery/ Award. An appraisal was carried out of the 2019 LIF consultation feedback which indicated 200 project suggestions for parks and green spaces of which 30 sites were specifically nominated as Community gardens, and of those 30 sites, 9 were shortlisted as being the most viable as they had an appropriate location, ownership status and an organisation with capacity and capability to take part in the programme who operate nearby.

The Phase 2 approach was to appoint a third party grant giving organisation to administer funding. A report was taken to the January 2022 Grants Determination Sub Committee to approve the delivery plan to distribute Local Infrastructure Funding via a grant to community groups and other organisations.

3. Progress to Date



Phase 1

From the nine sites identified for Phase 1 , four sites have been completed, one sites is in delivery, one site is in design and three sites will not proceed following feedback from the mayor.

Phase 2

Following approval of the delivery approach by the Grants Committee in January 2022, a grant delivery organisation was commissioned in May 2022, to design and administer the Phase 2 Grant Programme.

The contract was procured using the councils RFQ route and the development work had completed in August 2022. We had aimed to launch the grant on 1st September, however in late August we were instructed to pause on the launch whilst a review of the LIF Programme was carried out by the Mayor and Lead Cabinet Members.

After discussions with the Mayor, the recommendation was not to proceed with launching this grant, the mayor recognised the importance of growing spaces but would like to see a more carefully considered approach in terms of where and how we spend money on grants- which will emerge from the review of LIF programme more generally.

In October 2022 we attended a LIF Working Group meeting to seek a steer on next steps for the programme, we were advised that a report will be taken to cabinet by the LIF team to ratify the decision to discontinue parts of the programme, however there is no clear timescale of when this will take place.

It was agreed at the working group meeting that the Regeneration Team would ensure all risks were managed with terminating the contract with grant delivery organisation and would notify them accordingly.

Under clause 9 of the Terms and Conditions of the contract we can terminate the contract without any financial penalties.

'9. TERMINATION

9.1 The Council may terminate this Contract for whatever reason and without liability by giving not less than one month's written notice to the Contractor. In doing so, the Council shall not incur any liability and/or costs whatsoever, save in respect of any payment regarding correctly performed Services delivered at that date.'

Legal services have advised that Under D.9 of the corporate operating procedures early termination of a contract can be initiated by the Corporate Director, the person who reports to the corporate director and or one tier below that person.

4. Considerations

- i. Following the advice from legal services the Regeneration Team are seeking permission from the Director of Place to terminate the contract.
- ii. As the Phase 2 Grant Approach was approved by the Grant Determination Committee the Regeneration Team are notifying the committee about the termination of the contract and to formally close this grant.

iii. The Regeneration Team will notify the grant delivery organisation accordingly.