



# LONDON COMMUNITIES COMMISSION

## LONDON COMMUNITIES COMMISSION: E BULLETIN NUMBER 2 AUGUST 2018

### Introduction

We last sent out a Bulletin in November 2017. It set out the context for the Commission's work with reference to its Mission statement and the findings of its evidence-gathering process. It then covered four matters.

- The draft designation of Community Action Areas (CANs)
- The draft criteria for establishing Anchor Organisations in each CAN
- The strategic priorities that might apply to funding within the CANs
- The embryonic proposals to raise significant resources to put into an endowed Trust, so that programmes of implementation could be developed by communities themselves within the CANs.

### **This Bulletin brings you up to date on progress since then.**

At the end of Bulletin No.1, we made the point that "Little further progress can be made (on the designation of CANs, on Anchor Organisations and strategic priorities) - other than informal consultation - until the resourcing issue is resolved".

That being the case, this Bulletin concentrates on progress relating to resources and the establishment of an endowed Trust. But, first, a brief update on the other matters listed above.

**On CANs**, we are now considering the possibility that, in the first instance, there may only be ten CANs, rather than fifteen. This is because of the resource implications. It will be difficult to raise sufficient funds to make an impact in ten CANs, let alone fifteen. However, given the time taken to ensure the existence of effective Anchor Organisations in each Neighbourhood, the delay in reaching beyond ten CANs may not prove to be so great. We would still aim to deal with those Neighbourhoods in greatest need first, and we are working again with the GLA to look at the implications of reducing from fifteen to ten.

**On Anchor Organisations**, we are aware, as said above, that it will take time to establish Anchors in each CAN and we have discussed with Big Local their experience of facing a similar issue across the country. We will start work on identifying potential Anchors in more detail as the funding situation becomes clearer, hopefully early in the New Year, and look further at the implications of needing to enable, build and support new Anchors in some areas.

**On strategic priorities**, we have discussed the draft proposals as set out in Bulletin 1 with potential partners and we have attempted to make sure that our proposed priorities complement the ac-

tions proposed under other initiatives, in particular Big Local, and other major funders including London Funders, Trust for London, as well as the proposed Community Wealth Fund (which is looking to secure the future use of unclaimed assets) and a range of existing government initiatives. We have also had a useful meeting with Danny Kruger from the Department of Communities, Media and Sport and we have made a submission to the Department's consultation on the future of civil society initiatives. We are pleased to see that the government's approach to future work with communities (as recently published as the Civil Society Strategy) is very much in line with the approach that we are taking and we have agreed with Danny Kruger to keep closely in touch as the proposals develop.

In that context, we have concentrated on the more challenging issue of trying to establish an endowed Trust.

## **Resources**

We are looking at two alternative approaches, both of which involve working with the FTSE 350 companies to establish an endowed Trust of around £1billion. Our thanks to Richard Gibbs for his initial idea to raise resources through this route.

In order to realise this ambitious target we have looked further at:

1. what partnership would be appropriate to start the process
2. what core team is needed to drive the initiative
3. how such a team could be funded
4. business champions.

### **1. Partners**

The endowed Trust concept has been discussed in principle with many potential partners, including the CBI, Business in the Community, a selection of business leaders, the City Corporation, Big Lottery, London Councils, key voluntary and community sector bodies including NCVO, Locality etc, and has met with great interest as well as offers of help to put it in place. We are starting to build on those offers, as follows.

### **2. The Core Team**

To bring those partners together around a specific proposal and to bring that proposal to fruition is no easy task. At present this work is being done entirely voluntarily by the Commission's Chair and the Convener (Sir Stephen O'Brien and Drew Stevenson) together with Geraldine Blake from London Funders. They have also received assistance from Neil Johnston of the Paddington Development Trust. It is not proposed that they should be funded for the work they do, but in order to move the proposals forward we are taking steps to bring on board two paid posts – an interim director and administrative support - who will manage and deliver the project.

We also want to commission a specialist economic organisation or individual to set out clearly the business case of the proposed financial model. In parallel we are looking to develop a communications strategy to promote the proposal: this will include tailored materials for the business community alongside preparing for a public campaign to generate support.

Finally we need to establish the longer term structure. Working with champion businesses and networks as well as existing community and civil society organisations, we will identify the appropriate structure to hold the endowment and deliver the programme. It may be that an existing organisation would be suitable, or it may be simpler and more efficient to set up a new Trust specifically to handle a sum of this size with its own mission and purpose. Options will be further examined as part of the development process, including proposals for the necessary range of Trustees to represent the cross-sector nature of the initiative and its accountability. Particular care will be taken to ensure that the voice of communities is central in the process.

### **3. Funding the Team**

The funding is to be built around three Phases:

*Phase 1 (Sept 2018 to Nov 18)* Making the business case and securing business champions

*Phase 2 (Dec 18 to March 19)* Developing and testing the communications materials and campaign, establishing the structure.

*Phase 3 (April 2019 onwards)* Launching the initiative. Details would be decided in light of progress in Phases 1 and 2.

We have approached a group of independent funders for a total budget of around £115k for Phase 1 and 2. Phase 2 would not be triggered without a successful outcome to Phase 1 i.e. a draft economic case and at least two champion businesses. We expect the costs of Phase 3 to be met by participating businesses.

### **4. Business Champions.**

To complement this work and to gain further access to the business community, we are starting to build a group of champion FTSE businesses: we have identified a senior business champion in an appropriate position to make introductions to other businesses. Initially, we plan to meet with 6-10 businesses and hope to secure the agreement of 2 or 3 to act as initial champions in turn.

### **Next Steps.**

The current Core Team will form an Advisory Group for the interim Director. We will establish a wider Reference Group to include further advice, as well as champion businesses, together with the involvement of funders for Phases 1 and 2 as the work progresses.

We will also continue to work with partners, particularly BTIC, to examine how the basic ideas behind the proposal could be replicated outside London.

We will publish another Bulletin when sufficient progress has been made, hopefully around the end of the year, as we enter Phase 2 of the funding.

### **The Commission's Draft Final Report.**

Finally, this Bulletin draws your attention to the Commission's Draft Final Report which is now available on the web ([REF>>>>](#)). This was drafted many months ago, but was held back until we could say more about the practical steps that had been taken to secure funding. Whilst there is still a long way to go before that funding is secure, we believe it is now sufficiently developed to re-lease the Report. Very many thanks to Ines Newman for her excellent report writing from the first draft up to November 2016, by when the great majority of the Report had been completed. Thanks also to Fabian Sharp for all his help, including the design of our powerful logo.