

**Council
Cabinet**

**21 October 2009
26 October 2009**

The Lambeth Portuguese Community Fund

All Wards

Cabinet Portfolio:

Cabinet Member Culture and
Communities:
Councillor Rachel Heywood

Report authorised by:

Executive Director Adults' and Community
Services: Jo Cleary

Executive summary

This report and its recommendations follow completion of a needs assessment of 150 local Portuguese speaking residents and subsequent dialogue with the Lambeth Portuguese Community Steering Group. The priority identified within the needs assessment with 92.6% of the respondents in support is the need for a Portuguese Community Centre in Lambeth.

This report sets out a proposal that will bring together a partnership between the Portuguese Community Steering Group, the Capital Community Foundation and Council to support the deliver of a Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre.

Summary of financial implications

The July 2008 finance review set aside £0.5m of capital towards the development of a Portuguese Community Centre in Lambeth, which is currently held within an earmarked reserve.

Recommendations

Council

- (1) To allocate the £0.5m earmarked for the development of the Portuguese Community Centre in the July 2008 finance review to the Capital Community Foundation in order to establish an endowment and development fund to deliver a sustainable Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre as outlined in this report.

Cabinet

- (1) To note that Council has allocated the £0.5m earmarked for the development of the Portuguese Community Centre in the July 2008 finance review to the Capital Community Foundation in order to establish an endowment and development fund to deliver a sustainable Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre as outlined in this report.

- (2) That any further costs associated with ongoing build, maintenance and operating costs are met from local and community interests without ongoing commitments from council tax resources.
- (3) To approve any alterations to the use of the £0.5m in conjunction with the Capital Community Foundation.

Consultation

Name of consultee	Department or Organisation	Date sent	Date response received	Comments appear in report para:
Internal				
Jo Cleary	Executive Director Adults' and Community Services	09.09.09	15.09.09	In the body of the report
Helen Charlesworth-May	Divisional Director Strategy and Commissioning	09.09.09	15.09.09	Ditto
Charlotte Evans	Head of Active Communities	09.09.09	15.09.09	Ditto
Peter Jones	Divisional Director Cultural Services	09.09.09	15.09.09	Ditto
Maria Millwood	Divisional Director Resources	09.09.09	15.09.09	Ditto
Glenda Finlay	Head of Finance	09.09.09	15.09.09	Ditto
Councillor Heywood	Cabinet Member Culture and Communities	18.09.09	22.09.9	Ditto
Mike Dickens	Head of Legal Services	09.09.09	15.09.09	Ditto
Frank Higgins	Chief Accountant	09.09.09	16.09.09	Ditto
External				
Antonio Santana Carlos	Ambassador of Portugal to the United Kingdom	24.09.09	01.10.09	Ditto
Rhys Moore	Capital Community Foundation	22.09.09	23.09.09	Ditto
Antonio Cunha	Lambeth Portuguese Community Steering Group	24.09.09	01.10.09	Ditto

Report history

Decision type: Key decision entered onto the Forward Plan in September 2009.		Key decision: reason EITHER a) expenditure or savings of £500,000 or more <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		OR/AND: b) proposal affects significantly two or more wards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Authorised by Cabinet member:	Date report drafted:	Date report sent:	Report deadline
See above	09.09.09	16.09.09	22.09.09
Report no.:	Report author and contact for queries:		
196/09-10	John Kerridge Assistant Director Active Communities 020 7926 2744 jkerridge@lambeth.gov.uk		

Background documents

Findings from the Portuguese Community Questionnaire

Appendices:

None

The Lambeth Portuguese Community Fund

1. Context

- 1.1 Lambeth's Portuguese speaking communities have traditionally been established around the Stockwell area of the borough, where networks of small businesses, associations and social groups have emerged.
- 1.2 Unofficial estimates suggest the Portuguese speaking community in Lambeth to be as high as 20,000, as against a 2001 census of 4000. Today Lambeth's Portuguese speaking community are found in most parts of the borough, whilst Stockwell and Clapham remain the central focus point.
- 1.3 Cabinet on 28th July 2008 (119/08-09) and Council on 8th October 2008 agreed the July Finance Review report, which authorised the release of £1.8m to meet the purposes set out in the review subject to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources advising that it was prudent to do so. £0.5m of this allocation has been earmarked for a Portuguese community centre.
- 1.4 During 2008 the Active Communities Team instigated a programme of engagement work to establish a better understanding of the needs within the Portuguese speaking community resident in Lambeth.
- 1.5 Following completion of a needs assessment and ongoing consultation with the Portuguese Community Steering Group this report recommends the utilisation of the £0.5m to establish a dedicated endowment and development fund within the umbrella of Lambeth Community Fund that will be managed by the Capital Community Foundation and called the Lambeth Portuguese Community Fund.

2. Proposals and Reasons

- 2.1 The sole purpose of the Lambeth Portuguese Community Fund will be to support the design, development and continued contribution towards a Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre. The Lambeth Portuguese Community Steering Group will undertake fundraising activities to further build this endowment fund and generate the capital required to deliver the proposed Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre.
- 2.2 If the Portuguese Community Steering Group fails to deliver an operational Portuguese Community Centre within two years of this report being agreed, the Council and the Capital Community Foundation will determine the future use and priorities of the £0.5m endowment fund.

Engagement with the local Portuguese Speaking Communities

- 2.3 Lambeth's Portuguese speaking community includes a diverse range of people from around the world. As well as mainland Portugal, Lambeth's Portuguese speaking community includes, although not exhaustive, people from the former Portuguese colonies of Brazil, Angola and Mozambique.
- 2.4 During 2007 the Active Communities Team brought together known business leaders and community activists from the Portuguese speaking community to

explore needs within this specific community. This programme of engagement has been challenging given the complex diversity, social and political differences within the local Portuguese speaking community. During the course of this work His Excellency Antonio Santana Carlos, Ambassador of Portugal to the United Kingdom has provided intervention support in bringing together key people to address differences and build consensus.

- 2.5 After a period of time a core group of volunteers has emerged. This group is predominately made up of representatives from mainland Portugal, which reflects the community profile in Lambeth. The Active Communities Team then commissioned High Trees Community Development Trust to work alongside this group of volunteers from the local Portuguese community to help them design and carry out a sample survey into the needs of 150 Portuguese speaking people resident in Lambeth.
- 2.6 This group of volunteers has since gone on to develop into the Lambeth Portuguese Community Steering Group and has continued to work with the Council in shaping the proposal and recommendations of this report. The matrix below provides a high-level view of those surveyed during a needs assessment below:

%	Profile
54.1%	People completed survey between the ages of 26 and 49
47%	Male
53%	Female
36.9%	Lived in Lambeth for more than 10 years
32.8%	Unemployed
28%	Have formal qualifications
71%	Came from the Portuguese mainland
11.5%	Live in households with 5 or more people
50%	Live in private or council rented accommodation
10%	Have special care requirements for an adult or older family member
13%	Have require access to support services for children and young people
14%	Provide unpaid caring support to family or friends
10%	Are not registered with a Doctor
17%	Have difficulties accessing public services, including Council services

- 2.7 92.6% of those questioned supported the concept of a Portuguese Community Centre in Lambeth, with 60.7% declaring an interest in volunteering in such a centre. A further report providing the more detailed findings from the survey has been reported to Lambeth's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Working Group with the aim of informing future service planning.

Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre

- 2.8 The proposed Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre will provide a centre where the community may gather for cultural activities, social support, and public information and access community services.
- 2.9 The centre will be owned by a charity in the form of a company limited by guarantee and managed by a management committee formed of representatives

from the Portuguese community. A role the existing Portuguese Community Steering Group sees itself growing into as the project develops.

- 2.10 The Lambeth Portuguese Steering Group now meets on a regular basis and is currently developing its internal structures to a limited company by guarantee. The Steering Group are exploring three options to achieve their centre, new build, taking control of an existing building or renting space within the Stockwell and Clapham area of the borough.

Option A: New build

- 2.11 Development of a new build is likely to cost in the region of £1.5m, which the Steering Group accepts will be its responsibility to raise. The Steering Group has taken initial steps in developing fundraising activities by organising a profile raising event at the Portugal Ambassador's Residence that brought together Portuguese business leaders, the Council and community associations.
- 2.12 Members of the Steering Group are also undertaking visits to Portugal to identify fundraising opportunities, as well as exploring formal government networks through the Portuguese Embassy. The Steering Group have set a target of two years to achieve this fund-raising target.

Option B: Taking Control of an Existing Building

- 2.13 The Steering Group have undertaken visits to view buildings, which are either available or becoming available through the community, public or private sectors, although to date no suitable and vacant properties have been identified.

Option C: Renting Space

- 2.14 The Steering Group have rented space in local community facilities to run a number of successful events, although, as with option B there is a lack of suitable and readily available properties within the Stockwell and Clapham area at this moment in time.
- 2.15 Option A is the desired outcome for the Steering Group, although option B will be acceptable if a suitable and vacant property becomes available. Option C is seen as a short-term solution and only acceptable if funding to achieve option A or B is not forthcoming.
- 2.16 Regardless of the option the proposed centre must be developed on the foundation of sustainability and is subject to ongoing resources to run it being met from local and community interests without ongoing commitments from council tax resources.
- 2.17 To achieve the desired outcomes from both a community and Council perspective will be challenging and requires innovation and flexibility from all those involved. The creation of a Lambeth Portuguese Community Fund will provide the first step in building a sustainable approach, whilst reducing risk to the Council.

The Lambeth Portuguese Community Fund

- 2.18 This report seeks to invest £0.5m of funds identified during the 2008 July Finance Review into the Capital Community Foundation (CCF) to establish a Portuguese Community Fund under the umbrella of the Lambeth Community Fund.
- 2.19 The Portuguese Community Fund will be established for charitable purposes to support the health and social wellbeing of the Portuguese people resident in Lambeth through the creation of a community centre in Lambeth. CCF will ensure payments comply with UK charity law, and will conduct due diligence on proposed grant recipients. Ongoing capacity building support to the Portuguese Community Steering Group will be commissioned through the Active Communities Team.
- 2.20 The Lambeth Portuguese Community Steering Group will be able to draw down up to £20,000 in year one and £20,000 in year two from the fund to resource the design, development and ongoing running costs of the Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre. The remaining balance will be utilised to create an endowment.
- 2.21 This endowment will be utilised to generate a sustainable flow of income towards the ongoing running costs of the centre regardless of the options (as set out in paragraphs 2.11 to 2.13 of this report) the community finally determine. The Steering Group will take responsibility for all fundraising activity associated with generating funds for this project.
- 2.22 If the Lambeth Portuguese Community Steering Group fails to achieve its fund raising ambitions within two years and no centre is forthcoming then future priorities and use of the endowment fund will be agreed by the Capital Community Foundation in conjunction with the Council, although it will be for the sole benefit of Lambeth citizens.

Governance of the Fund

- 2.23 Within the umbrella of the Lambeth Community Fund, which was established earlier this year in partnership with Lambeth Council, the Capital Community Foundation (CCF) has appointed a Grant Committee, which is responsible to the Board of Trustees at CCF, and is the nominated body for recommending grant awards.
- 2.24 The Council is represented within these governance arrangements and because the Portuguese Fund will be a significant sub-fund of the Lambeth Community Fund a representative from Lambeth's Portuguese community will be appointed by CCF to participate on the Lambeth Community Fund Grant Committee. CCF will publicly advertise for the position within the borough of Lambeth.
- 2.25 Given the innovative and developmental nature of this project in seeking to build prevention services with specific communities there is a possibility that lessons may be learned that could inform future Council strategies. It is proposed that reports on the progress of this project be presented to the Health and Adult Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

3. Comments from Executive Director of Finance and Resources

- 3.1 Provision for this project was made within the July 2008 financial review subject to suitable premises being identified and the ongoing resources to run it being met from local and community interests without ongoing commitments from council resources. The £0.5m funding is currently held within an earmarked reserve.
- 3.2 This report will vary the decision taken by Cabinet on 28th July 2008 and Council on 8th October 2008 to earmark £0.5m for a Portuguese Community Centre, subject to suitable premises being identified. The requirement for a suitable building being identified at this stage will be removed, although the recommendations of the report do not compromise the remaining criteria for release of the funding concerning sustainability.
- 3.3 The report also provides authority to Cabinet to approve the basis of alternative use of the £0.5m should the Lambeth Portuguese Community Centre not be operational within two years of this report being agreed, in conjunction with the Capital Community Foundation.

4. Comments from Director of Legal and Democratic Services

- 4.1 By virtue of section 2, Local Government Act 2000, local authorities have the power to do anything which they consider is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of their area. This power may be exercised in relation to, or for the benefit of, the whole or any part of the authority's area or all or any persons resident or present in their area.
- 4.2 The section 2 power includes power for a local authority to, inter alia, give financial assistance to, enter into an agreement with, or provide staff, goods, services or accommodation to, any person. However, the well-being power does not enable the authority to raise money, nor to do anything which it is unable to do by virtue of any existing statutory prohibition, restriction or limitation on its powers.
- 4.3 In addition, section 111, Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

5. Results of consultation

- 5.1 These are set out above in paras. 2.1 – 2.10.

6. Organisational implications

6.1 Risk management:

Risk has been significantly reduced by partnering with the Capital Community Foundation who will ensure payments from the Portuguese Fund comply with UK charity law, and will conduct due diligence on proposed grant recipients.

6.2 Equalities impact assessment:

Whilst a full equalities impact assessment is not required under the general duties of the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 there will be wider and beneficial equalities outcomes relating to this project in terms of promoting local community cohesion.

6.3 Community safety implications:

There are none.

6.4 Environmental implications:

There are none.

6.5 Staffing and accommodation implications:

There are none.

6.6 Any other implications:

There are none.

7. Timetable for implementation:

Activity	Date	Outcome
Report to Cabinet	October 2009	Approval for project
Funding agreement agreed with CCF and resources transferred	November 2009	Lambeth Portuguese Fund established
Application made available to Portuguese community fund	November/December 2009	Application submitted to the CCF from Portuguese Community Steering Group
Allocation made available from fund	January 2010	Development work instigated.
