

# Brixton Green FOI

In response to each of the questions raised:

## **1. Please advise how much money was paid to Brixton Green?**

The GLA has paid a total of £137,581.73 to the Brixton Green Community Right to Build (CRtB) project.

## **2. Please advise what checks were made by GLA officers on the correctness of funding Brixton Green, and the directors of that organization before any funds were paid to Brixton Green.**

As set out in the *Build Your Own Home – The London Way* Funding Prospectus (see item 25 of page 24 and item 34 of page 25), the GLA assesses all applicants/applications for CRtB grant funding according to the following criteria:

- that the applicant organisation is already a body corporate or has clear plans to become one;
- that the applicant organisation has demonstrated community engagement and consultation;
- that the applicant organisation has identified or is in the process of identifying land for the proposal;
- that the applicant organisation has considered and, if necessary, secured or will have secured a legal interest in the land which allows for its development;
- that the area has already been designated as a 'neighbourhood area' or that there are clear plans in place to do so (n.b. this applies to Community Right to Build Orders only);
- that appropriate expertise (including design expertise) is available to the applicant organisation to draw on;
- that the applicant organisation and the proposal meet the requirements of the Localism Act 2011;
- that the applicant organisation is requesting no more than 90% of the expected costs to achieve a Community Right to Build Order or a traditional planning permission (see item 34 of page 25).

Brixton Green's application for CRtB grant funding satisfied the GLA that each of the aforementioned assessment criteria had been met and that sufficient supporting evidence had been provided.

## **3. It is normally GLA policy to use an accountable Body to administer funding when the organization receiving the funding has no history with the GLA. Please advise why officers decided to make an exception for Brixton Green?**

No exception has been made for Brixton Green in this regard. The GLA's CRtB programme is targeted towards community organisations requiring small levels of grant funding as opposed to registered housing providers. As set out in the response to

question 2 above, the GLA requires CRtB applicant organisations to already be established as a body corporate or to have clear plans to become one. Community organisations that are not constituted as a body corporate upon application to the GLA's CRtB programme are required to establish one at their first milestone (see the section on *First milestone – Body corporate established* on page 27 of the *Build Your Own Home – The London Way Funding Prospectus*). In addition, all successful applicants to the CRtB programme are accountable through their Funding Agreements with the GLA.

**4. Please advise what checks have been made by officers on what the funds have been used for since the grant funding was paid to Brixton Green?**

As set out in the *Build Your Own Home – The London Way Funding Prospectus* (see the section on *Receiving Funding* on pages 26-28), the GLA pays grant funding to CRtB projects in stages once each of four key milestones have been achieved.

At each key milestone CRtB projects are required to submit a milestone completion claim form with supporting evidence as set out in the section on *Receiving Funding* on pages 26-28 of the *Build Your Own Home – The London Way Funding Prospectus*.

GLA Director's Decision DD1188 (attached) sets out the checks that were made on the Brixton Green project prior to payment.

**5. Brixton Green advertise as their achievement the Somerleyton Road project. There is no community right to build in this project. Will the GLA recover all funding that has not been spent for the purpose it was awarded?**

Brixton Green is in contract with the GLA to develop a traditional planning application instead of a Community Right to Build Order. On 27 March 2014, the GLA approved funding for Brixton Green's milestone 3 claim submission.

The GLA can, at its absolute discretion, require all or part of the GLA grant funding paid to CRtB projects to be repaid if the recipient fails to deliver the project or meet the project objectives and/or the delivery of the project is reasonably adjudged by the GLA to be unsatisfactory.

At this time, the GLA is satisfied that Brixton Green has met its project objectives up to its milestone 3 claim, as agreed in GLA Director's Decision DD1188 (attached).

**6. Please confirm that no officers or members who have any business or personal connection with the Board of Brixton Green had any influence over the decision to award Brixton Green the grant funding?**

No GLA officers or members have a business or personal connection with the Board of Brixton Green.

## **Links**

*Build Your Own Home - The London Way* Funding Prospectus:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/archives/Build%20your%20own%20home%20funding%20prospectus.pdf>

Director's Decision DD1188: [http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/gla/governing-organisation/executive-team/directors-decisions/DD1188)

[assembly/gla/governing-organisation/executive-team/directors-decisions/DD1188](http://www.london.gov.uk/mayor-assembly/gla/governing-organisation/executive-team/directors-decisions/DD1188)