

11 December 2017

Derwent London plc (“Derwent London” / “the Group”)

## Derwent London announces successful applications for its Autumn 2017 Community Fund

Derwent London is pleased to announce the successful applicants for its Community Fund (autumn 2017 round) from local community groups, residents and local business owners in the Tech Belt\* area.



St Luke's Community Centre, Tech Belt 2016



Spitz Charitable Trust – Music for wellbeing spring 2017

Over £25,000 is being awarded to the following projects for autumn 2017:

### 2017 autumn - Tech Belt:

- **Centre 404** – EC1 family support and drop-in services
- **Society Links Tower Hamlets** – Digital Explorers for Beginners
- **Spitz Charitable Trust** – Wellbeing exchange through cross-generational music-making
- **St Hilda's East Community Centre** – Surajumuki creates headlines
- **The Garden Classroom** – The Secret Garden shared
- **Young Actors Theatre** – Stage Door

The projects chosen were from a large number of applications which were submitted as part of the application process. A community panel was convened with officers from the London Boroughs of Islington, Hackney and Tower Hamlets, a community consultant and staff from Derwent London, to contribute to the decision-making process. An impressive range of applications was received and the winning entries have been selected on the basis that they will offer positive benefits, focusing on access to employment, physical, social, cultural, arts and health.

### John Davies, Head of Sustainability at Derwent London, commented:

*“We received our largest number of applications for this round and have again been impressed by the range of local projects. We are very pleased to be able to support a variety of initiatives which are much needed in local areas. We shall continue the fund into 2018 to give a chance for others to get their projects off the ground.”*

\*The Tech Belt is defined here as the area extending from King's Cross to Whitechapel, largely covering EC1 & E1.

- ends -

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## Notes to editors

### Derwent London plc

Derwent London plc owns 89 buildings in a commercial real estate portfolio predominantly in central London valued at £4.8 billion (including joint ventures) as at 30 June 2017, making it the largest London-focused real estate investment trust (REIT).

Our experienced team has a long track record of creating value throughout the property cycle by regenerating our buildings via development or refurbishment, effective asset management and capital recycling.

We typically acquire central London properties off-market with low capital values and modest rents in improving locations, most of which are either in the West End or the Tech Belt. We capitalise on the unique qualities of each of our properties – taking a fresh approach to the regeneration of every building with a focus on anticipating tenant requirements and an emphasis on design.

Reflecting and supporting our long-term success, the business has a strong balance sheet with modest leverage, a robust income stream and flexible financing.

Landmark schemes in our 5.6 million sq ft portfolio include White Collar Factory EC1, Angel Building EC1, The Buckley Building EC1, 1-2 Stephen Street W1, Horseferry House SW1 and Tea Building E1.

In 2017 the Group won awards for Property Week Developer of the Year and EG Offices Company of the Year and won further awards from the RIBA, Civic Trust and BCO and is listed 12th in the Corporate Knights Global 100 of the world's most sustainable companies. In 2013 Derwent London launched a voluntary Community Fund and has to date supported 56 community projects in Fitzrovia and the Tech Belt.

For further information see [www.derwentlondon.com](http://www.derwentlondon.com) or follow us on Twitter at @derwentlondon

### Background to the Derwent London Community Fund

Derwent London's Community Fund forms part of the Group's on-going sustainability programme and commitment to developing community engagement. Creating Value in the Community is a key priority and, to deliver on this principle, the Group has evolved a voluntary Community Fund to support local projects in the key areas in which it operates. Funds are designed to support projects with a focus on community events, environmental improvements, health & well-being activities, music & culture and ongoing help for disadvantaged/isolated groups. Starting with Fitzrovia in 2013, the Group offered a £250,000 Community Fund and supported 17 local projects from 2013 – 2015. Notable projects have included resurfacing a multi-use games area, music workshops for people with mental health problems, art project for homeless people and lunch club for the elderly.

In 2016, Derwent London announced an extension to the fund of £300,000 to be shared equally in Fitzrovia and now in the Tech Belt\*, to be spread over three years.

### Community Fund in Tech Belt

The Tech Belt Community Fund launched in 2016 and runs twice a year (summer and winter) offering c.£25,000 each time, with a particular focus on projects in the Old Street area for 2016. The context, background and issues around the considerably larger Tech Belt area are somewhat different and more diverse than Fitzrovia and so the scope has been extended to support:

- young people, training & upskilling, increasing employment/apprenticeship opportunities for disadvantaged people in the area and in particular for access into tech/startup businesses
- health & well-being activities for all generations
- worthwhile community events, music, culture & arts
- small improvements to public space

Registered charities can apply for £5,000 maximum; non-registered groups, businesses and individuals can apply for £2,000 maximum. Applications will be considered by representatives from Derwent London and the local community. For further information and how to apply, please visit:

[www.derwentlondon.com/news/article/community-fund](http://www.derwentlondon.com/news/article/community-fund) or contact Derwent London,

Tel: 020 7659 3000 or email [community@derwentlondon.com](mailto:community@derwentlondon.com)

## **Broader community/employment initiatives**

Building on its long-term sustainability principles, the Group are evolving wider support opportunities with individuals and organisations in the area. Initiatives include apprenticeships, work placements, mentoring and volunteering opportunities for our staff - notable recent initiatives include:

- Apprenticeship at 20 Farringdon Road EC1 leading to permanent work placement
- Careers workshop at Highbury Grove School N5

## **Derwent London Fitzrovia Community Fund - Organisations funded so far:**

### **2013 – Fitzrovia:**

**Fitzrovia Centre** – community garden at the Centre.

**Fitzrovia Youth in Action** – resurfacing the multi-use games area at The Warren & local football league

**All Souls Primary School** – for running lunch and after-school clubs and parenting classes

**All Souls Clubhouse** – for the Wednesday Lunch Club for older people

**Fitzrovia Trust** – for replanting the garden at the Fitzrovia Nursery.

### **2014 – Fitzrovia:**

**Fitzrovia Noir** – 140 Characters or less - an art project portraying streetlife in Fitzrovia

**Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association** – Positive Health exercise and massage project for women

**Upbeat Music** – Songs inspired by Dylan Thomas - music project for people with mental health issues

**All Souls Clubhouse** – supporting the Clubcare project and providing new kitchen facilities

**All Souls Primary School** – Learning together through technology photography project for children

**Women Like Us** – From Playground to Payslip – supporting Fitzrovia parents to combine work and family life

**ARTfitzrovia** – Taking the next steps –art collective for homeless adults

### **2015 – Fitzrovia:**

**All Souls Clubhouse** – After school football club & Clubkicks

**Fitzrovia Community Centre** – Arts programme

**Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association** – Fitzrovia Positive Health

**Fitzrovia Youth in Action** –Community events programme

**Upbeat Music & Mental Health** – Streets of London music workshop and showcase

### **2016 – Fitzrovia:**

**All Souls Clubhouse** – Wednesday Lunch Club

**FitzFest** – Classical music festival and education programme 2016/17

**Fitzrovia Centre** – Project Feel Well Fitzrovia

**Fitzrovia Trust** – Playground improvements

**Holcroft Residents Association** – Greening Carburton Street

**Soup Kitchen** – Kitchen costs

**Table Tennis Fight Club** – Community programme

### **2016 spring - Tech Belt:**

**All Change Arts** - Meaning to Say project for people with mental health problems and Word festival

**The Parent House** - Parent to Parent Outreach training and mentoring for volunteers

**Theatre Centre** - Our Place community drama

**St Luke's Parochial** – 3 Community Events

**St Hilda's East, Boundary Women's Project** – 'ABC' confidence building for socially excluded women

**Finsbury & Clerkenwell Volunteers** – Lunch & Telephone Club befriending and support

### **2016 autumn - Tech Belt:**

**Centre 404** – EC1 family support and drop-in services

**Quaker Court TMO** – Intergenerational story and drama project

**St Hilda's East Community Centre** – Older people's healthy living group

**Inspire/ St Monica's Primary School** – iDiscover project promoting STEM subjects

**Inspire/Central Foundation Boys School** – Connecting Silicon Hack

**St Luke's Parochial Trust** – EC1 collaborative public art project

**Islington Play Association** – This is real and it's yours! Toffee Park Playground redesign

### **2017 – Fitzrovia:**

**All Souls Clubhouse** – Wednesday Lunch Club

**Fitzrovia Centre** – Camels in the Community school art project

**Fitzrovia Chapel** – Community engagement and events

**Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association** – Positive Health project

**Fitzrovia Youth in Action** – Active Fitzrovia intergenerational exercise programme

**Holcroft Court Residents Association** – Greening of Carburton Street

**Whitefield Charity Soup Kitchen** – Welcomer funding

**2017 spring – Tech Belt:**

**Urban MBA** – Starting it up! project

**The Spitz Charitable Trust** – Music for well-being workshops

**Ministry of Stories** – children’s writing programme

**Islington Play Association** – Acting Freely drama workshop

**Cardboard Citizens** – Peer to Peer homeless mentoring

**St Hilda’s East Community Centre** – Active Ants nature play

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