**Connecting Communities – Approved List of Local Providers**

***Advert on London Tenders Portal***

In March 2019, Waltham Forest Council launched Connecting Communities. This ambitious programme, funded by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, aims to inspire **at least 50,000 people** to make a positive impact for those around them.

Waltham Forest has a proud history of welcoming people from all over the world, and is home to a thriving community of people from many different backgrounds, cultures and faiths.

Our borough has seen major changes in recent years; our population has grown and become more affluent - but rising against this tide, inequality is growing and some people are in danger of being left behind.

Our vision is to unlock the collective power of Waltham Forest’s people to build an integrated, supportive and safe community that feels like home for everyone.

There are three parts to the Connecting Communities programme,

* *Waltham Forest, Our Place* is a community campaign which calls on everyone in the borough to act, engage and participate in creating a stronger, more sustainable community.
* Establishing Community Networks in Leyton, Leytonstone, Chingford and Walthamstow to bring volunteers, community groups, local businesses and council services together to agree local priorities and share resources.
* Creating new opportunities to enable people to connect with and help each other. Focused on key priority groups such as new arrivals to the borough, black and ethnic minority women and young people, we will trial a number of innovative approaches for using peer-to-peer support to combat social exclusion, increase economic prosperity for all, and connect people from different backgrounds.

The Council’s key intention is that where possible, local organisations are given opportunities to deliver services that will enable the successful delivery of the Connecting Communities programme. To support this, the Connecting Communities Programme is developing a Community Bank which has three strands: The Commissioning Route (responding to an invitation to tender, i.e this route); The Small Grants Route (delivering smaller scale projects that support local priorities); and The Micro Funding Route (monies for individuals or very small community groups to deliver).

In line with this approach, the London Borough of Waltham Forest is inviting expressions of interest, from local organisations, who are ready and able to deliver services through a Commissioning Route, across seven key areas;

1. **English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) -** Mainstreaming English language acquisition
2. **Employment -** Supporting people into work and to progress in work
3. **Young people -** Social integration and opportunity for young people
4. **New arrivals -** A new offer to welcome new arrivals
5. **Inequality -** A new programme to address gender inequality for BAME women
6. **Families -** Enabling families to help each other
7. **Vulnerable adults -** Connecting vulnerable adults to their communities.

So if your organisation has a Waltham Forest postcode and operates in any of the above mentioned categories, please review the ‘Minimum requirements’ document and submit your organisations details.

Once reviewed and approved by the London Borough of Waltham Forest, your organisation will have visibility of all the Council’s Connecting Communities requirements, in these categories.

***Other avenues to promote the local suppliers list***

* *Ward Councillors to promote sign up by local organisations on the London Tenders portal*
* *Promotion through the newly appointed Connecting Communities Network Managers*
* *Promotion through the upcoming April 2019 Connecting Communities Network Meetings*