

9 June 2016

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

## **Derwent London invites applications for its new Tech Belt Community Fund**

Derwent London is pleased to invite applications for its new Tech Belt\* Community Fund from local community groups, residents and local business owners.



Up to of £150,000 is being invested in the Tech Belt from 2016 over the next three years (including management fees and any contingency). The aim of the fund is to support projects that will bring benefits to the local area and community, in particular focusing on local community events, increasing employment opportunities for disadvantaged local people, health and well-being, small public space improvements, arts, culture and educational projects.

There will be an area focus for each year and for 2016, this will be around Old Street. The fund will be issued in two equal tranches:

Summer 2016 – £25,000 is available; deadline for Summer applications is 14 July 2016

Winter 2016 – £25,000 will be available, launching October 2016

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)

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

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

*“We have now been running our Community Fund for four years and have supported 24 local projects in Fitzrovia. We are delighted to extend our Community Fund to the ‘Tech Belt’ area and look forward to working with the local community in getting some projects off the ground.”*

- ends -

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Notes to editors****Derwent London**

Derwent London plc owns a portfolio of commercial real estate predominantly in central London valued at £5.0 billion as at 31 December 2015, 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 6.2 million sq ft portfolio include Angel Building EC1, The Buckley Building EC1, White Collar Factory EC1, 1-2 Stephen Street W1, Horseferry House SW1 and Tea Building E1. In 2015 Derwent London topped the real estate sector for the sixth year in a row and was placed third overall in the Management Today 2015 awards for 'Britain's Most Admired Companies'. In addition the Group won awards by Architects' Journal, British Council for Offices, Civic Trust and RIBA and achieved EPRA Gold for corporate and sustainability reporting. In May 2016 Turnmill and The Corner House won RIBA London awards.

As part of its wider sustainability programme, in 2013 Derwent London launched a dedicated £250,000 voluntary Community Fund and, in 2016, announced a further commitment of £300,000 for the next three years for Fitzrovia and the Tech Belt.

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

**Background on the Derwent London Fitzrovia Community Fund**

Derwent London's Community Fund forms part of the Group's on-going sustainability programme and commitment to developing community engagement.

During 2012, Derwent London commissioned an extensive research and community engagement programme called 'Understanding Fitzrovia' which helped identify the issues most important to local residents. The findings of the study enabled the Group to develop a Community Investment Strategy. A Community Fund of £250,000 (inclusive of £50,000 towards fees and contingencies) was launched in May 2013 for a three year period and the investment areas identified supporting improvements to street environments, community programmes and events and activities around arts and culture. A further £300,000 commitment was announced in January 2016, to be divided equally between Fitzrovia and the Tech Belt for community projects.

Derwent London has worked closely with the local community to develop this programme to enable the delivery of worthwhile projects. Grants from its Community Fund are in addition to the Group's required community contributions from planning agreements. The Group has now committed a total of £550,000 (including administrative costs) into the Community Fund since it was launched in 2013. Most projects funded are either completed or under way and are providing much needed improvements, community facilities and new opportunities.

To complement the Community Fund, Derwent London also launched a staff volunteering scheme in 2013 to enable employees to contribute their time and skills to some of the projects. In the last few years, staff have given their time to support Fitzrovia charities and individuals, made visits to elderly/lonely people, and have also taken part in mentoring and regular careers workshops to share experiences and provide valuable insights into working life with disadvantaged young people.

## Organisations funded so far:

### 2013:

Fitzrovia Community Centre [www.fitzroviacommunitycentre.org](http://www.fitzroviacommunitycentre.org)  
Fitzrovia Youth in Action [www.fya.org.uk](http://www.fya.org.uk)  
All Souls Primary School [www.allsoulsprimary.co.uk](http://www.allsoulsprimary.co.uk)  
All Souls Clubhouse [www.allsoulsclubhouse.org](http://www.allsoulsclubhouse.org)  
Fitzrovia Trust [www.fitzroviatrust.org](http://www.fitzroviatrust.org)

### 2014:

Fitzrovia Noir [www.fitzrovianoir.com](http://www.fitzrovianoir.com)  
Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association [www.fitzrovia.org.uk](http://www.fitzrovia.org.uk)  
Upbeat Music [www.upbeatmusic.org](http://www.upbeatmusic.org)  
All Souls Clubhouse [www.allsoulsclubhouse.org](http://www.allsoulsclubhouse.org)  
All Souls Primary School [www.allsoulsprimary.co.uk](http://www.allsoulsprimary.co.uk)  
Women Like Us [www.womenlikeus.org.uk](http://www.womenlikeus.org.uk)  
ARTfitzrovia [www.artfitzrovia.org](http://www.artfitzrovia.org)

### 2015:

Fitzrovia Neighbourhood Association [www.fitzrovia.org.uk](http://www.fitzrovia.org.uk)  
Fitzrovia Youth in Action [www.fya.org.uk](http://www.fya.org.uk)  
Upbeat Music & Mental Health [www.upbeatmusic.org](http://www.upbeatmusic.org)  
All Souls Clubhouse [www.allsoulsclubhouse.org](http://www.allsoulsclubhouse.org)  
Fitzrovia Centre [www.fitzroviacommunitycentre.org](http://www.fitzroviacommunitycentre.org)

### 2016:

All Souls Clubhouse [www.allsoulsclubhouse.org](http://www.allsoulsclubhouse.org)  
FitzFest [www.fitzfest.co.uk](http://www.fitzfest.co.uk)  
Fitzrovia Centre [www.fitzroviacentre.org](http://www.fitzroviacentre.org)  
Fitzrovia Trust [www.fitzroviatrust.org](http://www.fitzroviatrust.org)  
Holcroft Residents Association [hcra@holcroftcourt.com](mailto:hcra@holcroftcourt.com)  
Soup Kitchen [www.amchurch.co.uk/soup-kitchen](http://www.amchurch.co.uk/soup-kitchen)  
Table Tennis Fight Club [www.tabletennisfightclub.com](http://www.tabletennisfightclub.com)