

GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL

9 JUNE 2005

Chair: * Councillor Mrs R Shah

Councillors: * Arnold * Harrison
 * Nana Asante * Mrs Joyce Nickolay
 * Marilyn Ashton * Anjana Patel
 * Bluston * Thammaiah
 * Branch (1)

* Denotes Member present
 (1) Denotes category of Reserve Member

[NB: Attendance at this meeting by representatives of the voluntary sector and representatives of the Local Authority is recorded at Appendix A]

PART I - RECOMMENDATIONS - NIL**PART II - MINUTES**176. **Appointment of Chair:**

RESOLVED: To note the appointment, at the Cabinet meeting on 19 May 2005, of Councillor Mrs R Shah as Chair of the Panel for the 2005/2006 Municipal Year.

177. **Attendance by Reserve Members:**

RESOLVED: To note the attendance of the following duly appointed Reserve Member:

<u>Ordinary Member</u>	<u>Reserve Member</u>
Councillor Miss Lyne	Councillor Branch

178. **Declarations of Interest:**

RESOLVED: To note that the following interests were declared:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Nature of Interest</u>
Councillor Arnold	Harrow in Europe Citizen's Advice Bureau
Councillor Nana Asante	Harrow in Europe The A Connexion The African SANG Association London Youth Games
Councillor Bluston	North West London Community Foundation Harrow in Business Edward Harvist Charity Harrow Sports Council
Councillor Branch	Harrow in Europe
Councillor Harrison	Harrow in Europe
Councillor Mrs Joyce Nickolay	Harrow in Europe
Councillor Anjana Patel	Harrow Mencap
Councillor Mrs R Shah	Harrow Council for Racial Equality

179. **Arrangement of Agenda:**

RESOLVED: That all items be considered with the press and public present.

180. **Appointment of Vice-Chair:**
Nominations were received and seconded for Councillor Thammaiah and Councillor Mrs Joyce Nickolay. Upon being put to the vote, it was
- RESOLVED:** To appoint Councillor Thammaiah as Vice-Chair of the Panel for the 2005/2006 Municipal Year.
181. **Minutes:**
- RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2005 having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.
182. **Public Questions:**
- RESOLVED:** To note that no public questions were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 15 (Part 4E of the Constitution).
183. **Petitions:**
- RESOLVED:** To note that no petitions were received at this meeting under the provisions of the Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 13 (Part 4E of the Constitution).
184. **Deputations:**
- RESOLVED:** To note that no deputations were received at this meeting under the provisions of Advisory Panel and Consultative Forum Procedure Rule 14 (Part 4E of the Constitution).
185. **Grants to Voluntary Organisations 2006/07 - Consultation with Voluntary Organisations:**
The Chair introduced a Grants Officer who presented a report outlining the proposed Grant Aid Process 2006/2007 to the assembled representatives from local voluntary organisations.
- The officer explained that in January 2004 the Council had commenced a strategic review of support to the Voluntary Sector, which had been used to develop a new strategy for supporting the Voluntary Sector in Harrow. The strategy had been approved by Cabinet on 14 October 2004, and was to be implemented in full in 2006/2007. Officers identified several new strategic principles for the forthcoming Municipal Year, including:
- **Common Grants Criteria:** organisations must meet one or more of the common grants criteria, based on the community strategy priorities, in addition to meeting the grants conditions.
 - **Changes to service level agreements (SLA):** all organisations which were currently in receipt of SLA funding would be required to submit grant application forms. Organisations applying for funding in excess of £10,000 would be recommended for a service level agreement (SLA), and funding would be based on up to a three-year term with annual reviews. Funding below this threshold value would be offered as a grant.
 - **Community Lettings:** it was explained that under the new strategy, community lettings would also encompass the education lettings service. Application packs for community lettings grants would be available from the Grants Unit in September 2005.
- Officers outlined the timetable for the Grant Aid Process 2006/2007. Attention was drawn to the deadline for receiving applications (5pm on Friday 30 September 2005). The meeting was informed that applicants could appeal the Panel's decision on the grounds that the information presented to the Grants Advisory Panel was incorrect or incomplete, when this was considered to have had a material effect on the Panel's decision on that application.
- Officers provided information on the Edward Harvist Trust grants. The meeting was informed that applications would be considered at the meeting of the Grants Advisory Panel on 5 September 2005, and then at every subsequent meeting of the Panel in 2005/2006. The meeting was informed of reserve funds of £70,000, which would provide further funding opportunities pending its anticipated release by the Grants Advisory Panel on 28 June 2005.

The Chair welcomed a representative of the North West London Community Foundation, formerly Harrow Community Trust, who advised the meeting of funding opportunities provided by the Foundation within five boroughs in northwest London. The representative identified three funding programmes managed by the Foundation: Small Grants; Sport Relief and the Local Network Fund for Children and Young People. The representative advised that applicants did not need to be registered charities to receive funding, only constituted groups, and added that funding opportunities were available throughout the year although groups could only hold one grant at a time.

The Chair welcomed comments and debate from the representatives of the voluntary sector in attendance. The following issues were discussed:

Common Grants Criteria

- It was asked whether an application that satisfied more of the common grants criteria was at an advantage. Officers informed the organisations that all information submitted relating to the criteria would be passed to the Grants Advisory Panel for their consideration.
- Officers advised that all criteria were rated equally.

Community Lettings

- Organisations were reassured that there was a sufficiently large transitional period for community lettings during which current users would be safeguarded from any changes (up to 31 March 2007).
- It was advised that community lettings exceeding £10,000 would be considered as service level agreements.

Service Level Agreements

- It was mentioned that there was an inconsistency in the draft application pack when referring to the three-year term for SLAs. Organisations were informed that the duration of the funding was ultimately at the discretion of the Panel.
- Officers reassured groups that the new strategy would not decrease the stability of organisations in receipt of SLAs.
- It was suggested that a limit should be placed on the amount of funding an organisation could bid for. Officers emphasised that the whole of the main grants budget was up for bidding, and that organisations could be funded if they made a strong application to the Grants Unit. It was added that all funding was considered by Cabinet using the recommendations from the Grants Advisory Panel.

Assistance with the Grant Aid Process

- Officers informed organisations that all new applicants would be met for a pre-assessment. It was added that previously unsuccessful applicants would not be required to have a second pre-assessment.
- Officers would only be able to provide limited help to applicants. Umbrella organisations were identified that could assist applicants with their forms, such as Harrow Association of Voluntary Services (HAVS).
- It was suggested that a reminder should be sent to organisations when the deadline for applications was approaching, although it was argued that adequate notice was already provided.

Edward Harvist Trust

- The Council for historic reasons administered the Edward Harvist Trust – this arrangement could be amended by trustees.
- Some organisations reported that they had found it difficult to access information on the funding. It was advised that the fund would be more extensively advertised in the future, and that the problems would be mentioned to the trustees of the funds.

Non-voting Advisors

- The appointment of non-voting advisors from the Voluntary Sector to the Grants Advisory Panel was discussed. Reference was made to other Panels which had non-voting advisors, and possible criteria for selecting advisors.

Grants Advisory Panel Procedure

- Concern was expressed that, on occasions, the Panel seemed to agree some applications 'on-the-nod'. Organisations were reassured that all applications were discussed in depth, sometimes in pre-meetings of the Panel Members as well as at the formal meetings, before recommendations on grants applications were made to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: That the above be noted.

(Note: The meeting having commenced at 7.40 pm, closed at 9.25 pm)

(Signed) COUNCILLOR REKHA SHAH
Chair

APPENDIX A

GRANTS ADVISORY PANEL – 9 JUNE 2005**(1) Representatives of Voluntary Organisations in Attendance**

Mrs A M Pointer	St George's Church (C of E) Pinner View
E Kafka	Harrow Shopmobility
Bob Aitchison	Victim Support
P Horn	Harrow Bereavement Care
D Kersh	Harrow Computer Club
M Coker	Community Link Up
Rita Mankodi	Harrow Council for Racial Equality
Yvonne Lee	Harrow Mencap
Doreen Luff	“ “
Pamela Russell	“ “
Terry Revill	Flash Musicals
Debbie Revill	“ “
Patricia Turner	HACAS
Tony Burley	Relate London NW
Prem Pawar	Harrow Council for Racial Equality
Representative	HAVS
Punitha Perinparaja	Kala Anjali Arts Circle
Mrs R Mehta-Rodia	Sai School
Maura Agini	Emerald Circle Club Harrow
Representative	“ “
G Feldman	PSLA Harrow Branch/Pinner
A H Sheikh	Association of Senior Muslim Citizens
M Aslam Khawaja	“ “
M Ijaz Ahmed	“ “
R Shah	Hindu Council (Harrow)
Mosy Oginni	HUTF
Niru Matin	Harrow Bengalee Association
Abdi Gure	Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations (HASVO)
Councillor Choudhury	London Kalibani/Aid India Forum
Adam Hassan	Refugee Link and Training Agency
M Kumaranayakam	Harrow Tamil School Association
Norman Bell	Rayners Lane Regeneration
Ian Smith	Harrow Shopmobility
Julia Smith	HAVS
Jesse Mashate	SAHARA
E Namaganda	“ “
Eileen Martell	Harrow Family Learning Network
Representative	Islamic and Cultural Society of Harrow

(2) Officers who Attended

Zach Stavrinou	Temporary Grants Officer
Charlotte Clark	Grants Officer
Chander Vasdev	e-Procurement Manager
Laura Kell	Democratic Services Officer